

Always Been Yours Chapter 671

Chapter 671 Why Not Me?

Nicholas hid the crestfallen look on his face as he turned to look at Tessa with a gentle smile. “You’re awake?”

Although he hid his emotions well, Tessa could still detect a little of it

“What happened? I have a feeling that you’re unhappy.”

She walked toward him, leaned down, and circled her arms around his neck affectionately.

When Timothy saw the both of them in such a loving state, a smirk crept across his face. “Nicholas is having regrets that he wasn’t there in person to watch your performance.”

“That’s nothing. There’s still a long way ahead, and there’ll be a chance in the future. Then, she added as she lowered her head, “The most important thing now is your injury. If you can recover from it fast, that will set my mind at ease.”

Nicholas raised his hand and held her hand, nodding as he said gently. “I got it.”

A while later, they finished breakfast, and since Tessa had already asked for leave from Hathaway, she could stay home with Nicholas to help him with his work by doing something simple.

Meanwhile, Gregory stayed close to her, but he was very sensible, not pestering or disturbing her at all.

Timothy sulked when he saw how his sister fussed over Nicholas, “Tess, I have quite some work to finish as well. So, why are you only helping him and not me?”

“Are you going to be jealous over this?” Then, she glared at Timothy playfully and said, “One day, when you’re sick or injured like your brother-in-law, I’ll help you out the same way as well.”

Then, Gregory sidled next to him and spoke in an affected tone. “Mr. Timothy, it’s tiring enough for Miss Tessa to help my daddy. Be more sensible. Look, I didn’t bother her at all.”

Timothy was speechless at his words, so all of them got busy in the study, chatting occasionally, and the atmosphere was very peaceful and amiable.

In a blink of an eye, it was already noon. After lunch, Tessa ordered Nicholas to take an afternoon break.

“You’re injured now, so you should lay down and rest more,” she nagged while helping him to the bedroom.

Nicholas tilted his head as he gazed at her pretty profile with gentle eyes. “Come with me, then,” he whispered next to her ear, his hot breath sending a flush through her face, but she didn’t turn him down.

Back in the bedroom, he hugged her while lying in bed, and because they weren’t sleepy, they simply talked about daily life. But, as they continued, how Nicholas looked at Tessa began to turn.

To start with, he already didn’t have much self-control when it came to her, and at this moment, when he breathed in the light scent of her, it would be impossible for him to remain composed without any other thoughts.

So, he lowered his head, caught her soft lips with his, and kissed her passionately. Tessa raised her head to return his kiss, but that was all because she wouldn’t allow him to act impulsively while still injured.

Breathless, they broke apart.

However, Nicholas appeared unsatisfied and tried to fight for his welfare.
“Actually, this little injury is nothing to me.”

With a determined face, she shot him down. “No way. Don’t even think about it.”

Nicholas was resigned to his fate, and right then, his phone, which he placed on the bedside, started ringing—it was a call from Janet.

The look in his eyes turned cold, and he hung up without even thinking.

Tessa couldn’t suppress her curiosity when she sensed the change in his demeanor and asked, “Who called? Why didn’t you pick it up?”

“Somebody unimportant. There’s no need to bother. Let’s rest,” he answered, coaxing her to sleep because he didn’t want to mention Janet to spoil the mood.

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On the other end, Janet’s face was glum back in the country after getting hung up.

She was also worried about Nicholas’ physical condition, but she didn’t expect that his annoyance for her was already so obvious that he wouldn’t even pick up her call.

“Why did it turn out like this...”

She placed her phone away in disgruntlement, and couldn’t figure out where she had made a mistake.

If he hated her because of what happened in the hospital ward before, she felt that she didn’t do anything wrong for trying to fight for the man she loved.

Why? she asked herself. Why would that man choose someone else than me?

Always Been Yours Chapter 672

Chapter 672 We Won't Be Separated

Clearly, they were the perfect match with the best rapport!

“Is that woman really so amazing? It looks like I’ll have to find the chance to meet that woman!” Janet hissed through gritted teeth, her beautiful eyes gleaming viciously.

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For the next few days, Nicholas stayed in Yvetlava to recover with Tessa by his side to take care of him daily.

On this day, she received a call from Hathaway. It seems that their group was ready to return to Vienna.

“Tessa, I know that you’re worried about your fiancé, so I decided to let you have this time off. You can use this chance to relax, and once your fiancé has recovered, you can just come back again.”

“Thanks, Miss Hathaway,” Tessa expressed her gratitude sincerely.

Even though Kathleen picked on her in every way, Hathaway was very kind to her.

When they found out that Tessa could stay, Nicholas, Gregory, and Timothy were overjoyed, and all four of them remained in Yvetlava, living like a family.

Every day, Timothy would bring Gregory out to have fun, and if they found anything interesting, they would buy it home for Tessa.

On the other hand, Nicholas was a little sorry that Tessa had to accompany him home every day.

At night, he hugged her in bed and whispered, “Actually, my injury has recovered a lot, and you don’t have to accompany me every day. Go out with Greg and Timothy tomorrow.”

She understood what he meant and shook her head with a soft smile. “I don’t want to go out. I just want to stay home with you because I rarely have the time like this, and I don’t want to be away from you.”

Nicholas lowered his gaze, saw the love in her eyes, and spoke in a voice filled with adoration. “Okay, we won’t be apart.”

Two days passed by in a blink of an eye, and Timothy brought up his intention to leave. After all, his company had just taken off, and many things required his attention.

When Tessa sent him off at the airport, she reminded him in an unbearable tone, “Take good care of yourself when you’re back. Remember to take your meals regularly. You can never make enough money, but your body is more important. Do you understand?”

“Don’t just tell that to me, Tess. You should take care, too, and don’t overwork yourself.” Then, after he left a few words of concern for her, he boarded the plane and went while Tessa watched with reluctance in her eyes.

After she got home, she was a little moody, or she could say that every separation always made her upset.

Seeing that she was unhappy, Gregory considerately tried to comfort her. “Don’t be sad, Miss Tessa. I’m here with Daddy, and we’re here with you.”

His words touched her deeply. “You’re right, Greg. I still have both of you.” Then, she composed herself, pulled him into her arms, and chuckled. “You’re so good at comforting others, Greg.”

Soon, they started to play while Nicholas, who was in the study, received a call from his father. “Your grandfather is ill. No matter how important or busy you are right now, come back immediately.”

After he ended the call, he went out of the room with a solemn face and saw Tessa playing with Gregory in the living room when he was downstairs.

His eyes were filled with reluctance, but Remus was sick, so he had to return.

Just then, Tessa and Gregory noticed that he was there.

“Daddy, are you done with work? Would you like to play with us?” Gregory extended his invitation happily, not realizing Nicholas’ low spirits.

On the other hand, Tessa sensed something amiss and strode to him, asking in concern, “What is it? Did something happen?”

He answered truthfully, “My grandfather is sick, and I have to go back now with Greg.”

The look on Tessa’s face changed slightly upon hearing the ill news, and she cast him a worried look. “Is it serious?” she asked.

Nicholas shook his head. “I don’t know the details, and I’ll only find out after returning.”

“I’m coming with you, then,” she blurted. “Your wound isn’t healed yet. If I don’t watch you recover, I can’t return to the orchestra with peace of mind.”

Although a little surprised, Nicholas was delighted. That way, they wouldn’t have to be separated.

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Chapter 673 She Has Another Idea

In addition, the feeling of being cared for every second made Nicholas feel as though his heart was filled with honey, drunk with sweetness.

Next to them, Gregory was initially feeling sad, thinking that he would be separated from Tessa, but now that she was going with them, he was overjoyed beyond words.

“This is great! We don’t have to be separated from Miss Tessa!”

His happy face brought a bright smile to Tessa’s face, and she started packing after dinner. That evening, they took a private jet through the night to go back to Xerthania.

On the plane, Tessa kept checking on Nicholas, worried about his condition.

“Does your wound hurt?”

“No, don’t worry.” Then, he held her hand as he gazed into her eyes deeply. “Take a seat and rest for a while. You’ve been busy the whole night.”

Indeed, Tessa was a little tired, and she sat next to him quietly. As for Gregory, he lay on a lounge on the side not long after takeoff and fell asleep soundly with a small blanket over himself.

A few minutes later, sleepiness crept over Tessa, and she started nodding off. Nicholas chuckled, then used his uninjured arm and rested her head on his shoulder so that she could rest comfortably. In the meantime, he leaned back into the chair, closed his eyes, and relaxed.

The stewardess beside them turned down the cabin lights once she noticed that the family of three was resting.

More than ten hours later, the plane landed in Southend, where the local time was 3 p.m at the moment.

Outside the airport, Kieran and Edward were already waiting, and when they saw Nicholas and the others coming out, they quickly greeted them.

A small talk later, Nicholas turned to Tessa and told her his plan. “I’m going with Greg to visit Grandpa at the hospital. Go home and wait for us there.”

“Okay, be careful on the way.” With a smile, she nodded and added to Kieran, “Keep an eye out on your brother. Stop him from doing anything strenuous lest he rips his wound open.”

“Don’t worry, Tessa. My eyes will always be on him,” Kieran acknowledged with a nod.

Gregory also chimed in seriously, “Miss Tessa, I’ll keep a watch on Daddy as well and won’t let him do anything silly.”

He was so adorable that Tessa almost couldn’t take it, and she stroked his dark hair affectionately. “Okay, your daddy will be in your care then,” she said gently.

Just like that, Nicholas brought Gregory to visit Remus at the hospital. As for Tessa, Edward dropped her back at Dynasty Gardens.

On the way, Kieran asked in concern, “Nicholas, how is your wound recovering?”

“I’m fine,” he answered simply but changed his tone and asked, “How’s Grandpa doing?”

“He’s still having heart issues.” Then, he briefly told Nicholas about Remus’ health condition. “His situation is fine now, and he’s in a stabilized condition. Right now, Mom and Dad, as well as... Miss Brenner is watching over him in the ward.”

Upon hearing that Janet was there as well, the look on Nicholas' face turned a little sullen, but he didn't say anything. On the other hand, it was Kieran that was bursting with curiosity.

"Nicholas, what's the situation between you and Miss Brenner?"

Nicholas composedly replied, seeing the gossipy look in his brother's eyes, "She's just someone unimportant."

"But why do I think that she has another idea?"

"That's her problem, and it's unrelated to me. It looks like I've given you too little work lately. Since you're so free, I'll ask Edward to pass a few more projects to you."

"Nicholas, I was wrong. So, don't give me any more work to do. If I continue to work so hard, I'll definitely die before my time," Kieran begged pitifully.

One should know that since Nicholas went to Yvetlava, many things with the company fell on his shoulders, and he was very miserable!

Beside them, Gregory watched his father bully his uncle and chuckled in joy.

Kieran shot him a sad look and whined, "Greg, you didn't even help me when you saw your father bullying me. Am I even your real uncle at all?"

"But compared to Daddy, I'm closer to him than you."

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Chapter 674 Tobias and Stefania's Thoughts

Gregory looked at Kieran with wide, innocent eyes.

When Kieran saw Gregory's doe-eyed look, he couldn't help but lament, "Oh, no. Oh, no. We haven't seen each other for too long. Greg, how could you treat your uncle like this?"

At once, Gregory giggled at his uncle's dramatics.

While they were joking around, they finally arrived at the hospital.

Nicholas took Gregory into the ward and saw Remus sitting on the bed with his face as pale as a sheet.

Likewise, Remus saw Nicholas and his facial expression turned ghastly almost instantaneously.

However, Nicholas paid no mind to his grandfather's expression as he greeted his parents indifferently. Then, he asked with concern, "What did the doctor say about Grandpa's condition?"

"The doctor says he's fine. He just needs to take a good rest." Tobias also succinctly told his son what the doctor had to say about Remus' condition.

Nicholas nodded when he heard that it was something his grandfather could recover from. "That's a relief."

Remus abruptly let out a mocking snort as he asked, "What's the matter? Are you disappointed to see that I'm fine?" It was somewhat out of the blue, and no one knew how Nicholas' earlier remark had provoked Remus.

“You’re overthinking again. You should really stop twisting the sincerity in my words.” A helpless Nicholas looked at Remus.

Remus let out a harrumph as he expressed his disdain for Nicholas, “If it weren’t for my illness, would you even visit me?”

Nicholas frowned slightly as he knew that Remus was unhappy that he was going to Yvetlave to meet Tessa.

“I rushed back immediately when I heard that you were ill.”

“In that case, should I thank you for purposely rushing back to see me?” Remus rebuked Nicholas angrily.

At this juncture, Nicholas was slightly displeased by his grandfather’s attitude. So, he pursed his lips tightly as he remained in stony silence.

Gregory looked at Remus and then at Nicholas. Then, as if he noticed something, he took the initiative to creep over to Remus’ side. “Great-Grandpa, are you feeling better now? I heard that you’re sick, so I’m very worried.” He raised his head and looked up at Remus with concern in his puppy eyes.

As Remus looked at the adorable little guy, he couldn’t be bothered to hold on to his anger toward Nicholas. “Don’t worry, Greg. I’m fine.”

“I’m happy you’re fine, Great-Grandpa. You must take good care of yourself, so you’ll always be in good health,” Gregory said with his bell-like voice as he looked at Remus admiringly.

This utterly distracted Remus from his anger as Gregory’s adorable manner utterly captured him. “Yes, yes. I will definitely take good care of myself and live a long, happy life with you, okay?” He smiled as he teased Gregory.

Gregory nodded in acceptance of Remus’ words.

Just like that, the tense atmosphere in the ward eased.

During this period, Janet wanted to chat with Nicholas to lessen the distance between them.

Unfortunately, Nicholas had ignored her completely. He even treated her as though she didn't exist and didn't even spare her a glance the entire time.

After Remus played with Gregory for a while, he was finally willing to speak to Nicholas civilly. "I heard from Miss Brenner that you were injured. How are you feeling now?"

"It's nothing serious."

Nicholas decided to hide the actual situation from him as he didn't want Remus to worry, especially since Remus was still on bed rest.

Then, the two talked for a while, and Remus fell asleep due to exhaustion.

Once Stefania saw that Remus was asleep, she urged with great concern as she knew that Nicholas had made the trip even though he was injured, "Bring Greg back and rest. Your Dad and I will be here, so your grandpa will be alright."

As he was indeed a little tired, he didn't refuse her instructions. Not to mention that it was way past Gregory's bedtime, considering how he had been yawning several times these past hours.

"Well then, I'll take my leave. Let me know if anything happens." With that, Nicholas held Gregory's hand and left.

During this period, he didn't even bother greeting Janet as he left.

She chased after them without even thinking twice as she was upset by his cold shoulder.

In the meantime, Kieran watched from the side, tapping his chin in contemplation.

However, Stefania and Tobias didn't mind her poor manners.

After all, Nicholas was an outstanding man. Hence, it was normal for ladies to chase after him.

Besides, they thought Janet was a decent candidate to be their daughter-in-law. They felt she was at least much better than Tessa. Hence, they intended to let the relationship between Janet and Nicholas blossom.

Meanwhile, outside the ward, Nicholas was unaware of his parents' thoughts.

When Janet blocked his path, his facial expression turned frigid. "Is there a problem?"

Janet felt a pang in her heart when she looked at his indifferent expression.

Even so, she still showed her concern. "Is your injury really healed? Mr. Spurse gave me a few boxes of special medicine a few days ago. They're very effective in healing wounds. How about I send you some tonight?"

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Chapter 675 A Cozy Dinner

“That won’t be necessary. I’m fine.” Nicholas rejected Janet decisively. His gazes were icy cold. “Please get out of the way if there’s nothing else.”

When Janet saw this, she instinctively bit her lower lip as she felt the unpleasant churning within her chest. Then, she said aggrievedly, “Nicholas, are you still blaming me for what happened before? I stopped you at that time because I was worried about you. Your condition at that time simply wasn’t suitable for long-distance travel.”

Nicholas frowned, and traces of annoyance gradually appeared under his eyes.

Similarly, Gregory pouted in dislike.

Why does this bad lady keep blocking our way? Can’t she see that Daddy is getting more and more annoyed? Plus, I’m tired and hungry!

“Miss Brenner, Daddy and I are currently tired and hungry. Yet, you keep blocking us and not letting us pass. Are you sure you really care about us?” He innocently looked at Janet.

However, Janet nearly couldn’t maintain the expression on her face when she heard Gregory butting in, and a trace of anger surged within her.

As expected from an illegitimate child, this kid has no manners at all. Why does he, a child, intervene when adults are talking? I’ll definitely drill etiquette lessons into this brat the moment I marry into the Sawyer Family.

Even so, Janet managed to wrestle her face into a warm, kindly look.

“Greg, I’m sorry. It’s my fault. I just want to clear up the misunderstanding with your Daddy,” she said. Then, she looked toward Nicholas as she attempted to

explain again. “Nicholas, don’t be angry, alright? I-I was really worried about you at that time, that’s all.”

Nicholas remained indifferent as he listened to her explanation. Finally, he replied dispassionately, “You’re overthinking matters. Something as trivial as that isn’t worth my anger.”

However, Janet didn’t believe his words at all.

“You won’t be so cold to me now if you aren’t angry.” She gazed at Nicholas relentlessly.

At this point, Nicholas’ patience had been utterly worn out. It was as if the surrounding temperature suddenly dropped several degrees; the aura around him turned icy cold.

“This has always been my attitude toward others. You can just stay away if you can’t accept it. I’m very tired and just want to go back to rest.” After he finished saying that, he ignored Janet, carried Gregory as he walked past her, and left.

Janet was stunned for a moment. Shortly after, she hurriedly chased after them and said with a placating smile, “Nicholas, that’s not what I meant. How about this? I’ll send you guys home.”

No, thank you.” Once again, Nicholas rejected her. Furthermore, he even quickened his pace and left hurriedly.

I would never tolerate Janet’s pestering if it weren’t for my respect for Mr. Spurse.

Meanwhile, Tessa was busy cooking in Dynasty Gardens. She made salmon spinach quiche and some other dishes. Furthermore, she even simmered a pot of medicinal broth.

As soon as she was done, she saw Nicholas and Gregory return. In an instant, a bright smile surfaced on her face. “You guys are back! Hurry up and wash your hands. Then come over here to eat.”

“Okay.” Nicholas nodded and took Gregory to wash his hands.

After Gregory returned from washing his hands, he climbed up the dining chair without the help of a servant.

As his eyes laid on the scrumptious dinner on the table, he asked happily, “Miss Tessa, did you make all these?”

“Yeah, I made them all. You need to eat more to grow big and strong.” Tessa smiled and looked at Gregory.

At this moment, Nicholas also entered the dining room after washing his hands.

When she saw him, she immediately stepped forward and pulled out a chair for him by the dining table.

He couldn’t help but feel amused upon seeing her actions. He felt that Tessa regarded him as a fragile doll after his injury. Nonetheless, his heart warmed at her actions.

And just like that, the three began to enjoy their cozy dinner like a true family.

During the meal, they talked and laughed, and the atmosphere was harmonious.

Later, Tessa ordered Nicholas to return to his room to rest after they finished their meal.

With the long journey and his trip to the hospital again, Nicholas was indeed tired. Thus, he didn’t fight against her orders.

When he was back in his room, she helped him undress as his shoulder was injured. Then, she prepared a warm water bath and helped him clean his body.

As Nicholas looked at the girl who behaved like a busy bee for him, the tenderness in his eyes could almost melt others completely. Moreover, he felt all the happier as he enjoyed her care for him.

After the clean-up, Tessa instructed him to rest well. Meanwhile, she intended to leave the room.

Unexpectedly, Nicholas grabbed her wrist before she could turn around. “Aren’t you going to sleep with me?”

“I promised Greg that I’ll accompany him tonight. Okay, hurry up and sleep,” she gently coaxed him.

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Chapter 676 Janet's Visit

Despite being a little unhappy, Nicholas still let her wrist go. That was because he knew Gregory would definitely throw a tantrum tomorrow morning if he forced Tessa to stay.

Tessa was surprised to see Gregory standing by the door when she walked out of the room. So, she asked curiously, "Greg, what are you doing here?"

"I was afraid that my big bad Daddy will keep you to himself again, so I'm waiting for you here." Gregory felt a little resentful when he remembered Nicholas intercepting his plan before.

His words exasperated Tessa, but it was still funny enough that she couldn't help but let out a small huff in amusement. Still, his sincere want to be close to her melted her heart more than any sweet words he had said.

Then, she took Gregory back to his room and bathed him herself.

Later, Tessa and Gregory leaned against the bed in the warmly lit room, and she read him a bedtime story with her soothing voice.

After she read a story, she looked down at the little guy in her arms. She didn't realize when he had fallen asleep, but she found his sleeping face adorable.

"Good night." Tessa kissed Gregory's forehead. Finally, she turned off the light and fell asleep with the little boy in her embrace.

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The next morning, Nicholas still had not woken up when Tessa got up with Gregory.

Since she also wanted Nicholas to sleep more, she took Gregory to have breakfast first.

During their meal, Gregory approached Tessa mysteriously. “Miss Tessa, I just saw that the flowers in the back garden have bloomed, and they’re lovely. I’ll take you to see them after breakfast, okay?”

Naturally, she wouldn’t decline his invitation.

Hence, the two went to the back garden after they were done with their breakfast.

The botany was quite large, and many rare species of flowers were planted inside. The flowers were visually intermingled in a picturesque disorder. Clearly, these flowers were well-tended by someone.

Tessa simply felt relaxed and at peace as she smelled the floral fragrance of flowers in the air, especially when she saw the dewdrops on the petals of each of these blooming flowers. At that moment, she felt all the more wonderful.

“For you, Miss Tessa.” Gregory picked a red rose out of nowhere and handed it to Tessa like a gift.

She liked the flower very much, and an idea suddenly came to her mind.

“Greg, let’s pick some flowers back to decorate the room.”

“Okay! What kind of flowers do you want? I’ll help you pick them.” Gregory looked at Tessa earnestly.

And thus, the two picked a bouquet of flowers and returned to prune them. They were planning to arrange them in a vase.

Since it was time for Gregory’s class, he was studying with his tutor in the upstairs room. Hence, Tessa pruned the flowers by herself in the living room.

Also, Tessa planned to wake Nicholas up for breakfast after she was done arranging the flowers in a while.

At this moment, the sound of the doorbell rang from outside, and Andrew went to open the door.

“Miss Brenner?” He was slightly taken aback when he saw Janet standing by the door with a food box in her hand. “You must be here to look for Master Nicholas. He’s still resting.”

“It’s alright. I can wait for him in the living room,” Janet said as she made her way into the living hall.

After she entered, she saw Tessa sitting and arranging flowers on the table on the side at a glance. Inexplicably, she felt Tessa looked somewhat familiar. However, she did not think much about it and misunderstood her as a maid. In turn, she felt that ‘the young maid’ was quite beautiful.

Sure enough, Tessa did not know what Janet was thinking.

When she saw that a guest had visited the house, she immediately stopped what she was doing and planned to greet the guest first.

“Hello.” She smiled and looked at Janet.

Janet nodded lightly as she said, “Go on with whatever you’re doing.”

Tessa blinked when she heard those perfunctory words. However, her voice rang in her ears again before she could react.

“Are you new here? I have never seen you before.”

“I just arrived yesterday—” Tessa responded with a decent smile. But, then, she saw that there was no drink in front of Janet.

Just when she was about to have someone prepare a drink for Janet, she was interrupted before she could mutter a word. “So, you just arrived yesterday. Very well, you may go ahead with your own business. No need to bother about me.”

After Janet said those words, she ignored Tessa, picked up the magazine on the side, and read it.

Tessa raised her eyebrows slightly when she saw Janet’s actions and wondered if this young lady was acting a little too at home when she was just a mere guest.

Of course, she didn’t expect Janet to misunderstand her identity.

Eventually, she said nothing. Instead, she turned around, resumed tidying up the flower stalks that she had not pruned yet.

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Chapter 677 The Young Maid

After all, the guest personally told her that she did not need to be attended to. Furthermore, Tessa also hoped to finish the flower arrangement early.

Just like that, one was arranging flowers, while another was reading magazines. The atmosphere was strangely harmonious.

After another ten minutes, Tessa inserted the last flower into the vase. Then, she felt she had accomplished something as she happily admired the bouquet before her.

With the delicate rose wrapped in green leaves and white tulips circling on the outside, the arrangement of the flowers seemed to resemble milk and rose. It looked gorgeous.

The more Tessa looked at it, the more she felt that she had a talent for flower arrangements.

She smiled happily as she admired her handiwork while holding the vase carefully. Then, she couldn't help but lower her head and smell the flowers.

The fragrance of the flowers brightened up her smile even more.

Inadvertently glancing at Tessa, Janet could not help but frown. Doesn't there anyone think this young maid is a little too pretty?

Despite wearing no makeup, the girl's cheeks were alluring under the sunlight, especially with the sparkle in her eyes that made it seem as though she was a fae under the sunlight. It made her appear enchanting and pure.

Moreover, the more Janet looked at ‘the young maid’, the more she felt like she had seen the maid somewhere. However, she couldn’t recall just where she had seen this person before. Perhaps I’m overthinking things again. After all, this young maid said she had just reported for duty yesterday.

Just like that, she retracted her gaze. Nevertheless, she had other plans in her mind.

She was worried about having such a beautiful person besides Nicholas.

Therefore, when she saw him later, she intended to ask Nicholas to deploy ‘the young maid’ over to her side.

In the meantime, Tessa was unaware of Janet’s intentions as she pruned away some of the flower arrangement’s unwanted bits before she got up and woke Nicholas.

Unexpectedly, she heard footsteps coming from upstairs that gradually got louder.

Nicholas was dressed in a black suit as he walked down the stairs with a noble air. Each of his gestures exuded a sense of nobility and elegance.

His handsome facial features were like an art masterpiece carved by the deities.

When Janet heard the footsteps, she immediately put down the magazine and stood up with her lips formed into a smile.

However, a cheery voice rang in her ears before she could speak and interrupted her.

“Nicholas...” Then, she saw Tessa run toward Nicholas happily while holding the vase in one hand. “You’re awake.”

She raised her delicate face and looked at him with a smile as beautiful as a blooming flower.

At the same time, Nicholas looked at the girl's bright smile, and his cold facial features gave way to a gentle smile at her infectious cheer as he nodded lightly in greeting.

“Look! These are the flowers Greg and I went to pick in the morning. Here, smell them.”

As she spoke, Tessa held the vase in front of him.

Nicholas glanced at her dotingly as he lowered his head and smelled the flowers. Then, he said warmly, “They’re quite fragrant and beautiful.”

“Of course. I was the one who arranged these flowers after all.” Tessa raised her chin slightly, looking like a proud kitten. She looked extremely adorable in this state.

Nicholas laughed, and his eyes were tender with affection.

At this moment, Tessa suddenly remembered that there was a guest next to her. So, she palmed her forehead in annoyance and said, “Oh, I’m so forgetful. I was so busy talking to you that I forgot we have a guest.”

Nicholas followed Tessa’s gaze upon hearing her words and saw Janet standing beside the sofa. At once, the smile on his face faded.

Meanwhile, Janet was so shocked that she was rendered speechless as she looked at the scene playing before her in disbelief.

I have never seen such a gentle and patient Nicholas before. Also, this woman is not a maid at all. She is the woman who seduced Nicholas, Tessa Reinhart! It’s no wonder I kept thinking she was familiar just now.

Sure enough, another reason for her not recognizing Tessa instantly was that most of the photos Kaiden showed her before only displayed Tessa’s side profile. Therefore, it was normal for her not to be able to recognize Tessa immediately.

Nicholas frowned when he noticed Janet's complicated expressions fleeting across her face and asked, "What are you doing here?" His icy voice was completely different from just now.

Janet's face stiffened at the differential treatment, then clenched and loosened her hands hanging by her side. She repeated the actions several times. Only then was she able to suppress the sorrow and hatred in her heart.

"I brought breakfast for you. It's a medicinal broth that I specially asked someone to brew, and it's really effective for wound recovery." She softened her voice and tried her best to look virtuous.

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Chapter 678 A Family of Three

Unfortunately, Nicholas wasn't moved by Janet's effort at all and said indifferently, "Thanks."

Janet was very upset, and finally, she fixed her gaze on Tessa.

As she regarded the girl's delicate facial features and skin as fair as snow, she could not help but be green with envy.

Although she had paid attention to maintaining her skin's youthful condition these years, her years of training had made her skin feel much rougher than that of ordinary girls.

Even so, she still felt Tessa was not much of a big deal.

After all, good looks aren't everything.

Even though she was unimpressed inwardly, she still showed a faint smile. "I didn't expect you to be the person Nicholas constantly misses. Hello, I'm Nicholas' friend and also his closest teammate, Janet Brenner."

While speaking, she reached out her hand and took the initiative to walk toward Tessa.

Tessa raised her brow slightly, reached out her hand, and shook hands with her. However, she immediately pulled her hand in the next second.

She was certainly no idiot. Naturally, she heard the double meaning in the other party's words a while ago.

So, she smiled as she naturally linked arms with Nicholas and said gracefully, “Hello, Miss Brenner. I’m Nicholas’ fiancée. A pleasure to meet you.”

Despite nodding indifferently, Janet could barely suppress the anger in her heart.

The reason was the word ‘fiancée’ that escaped Tessa’s lips utterly won in terms of status since she was just an ex-colleague.

It seems like this woman isn’t as harmless as she looks. She has some brains.

At that thought, she changed the topic of the conversation and asked, “Nicholas, are you going to have your breakfast? Let me have someone serve it.”

Tessa frowned inexplicably at her words that made her seem like the host of this house.

“Miss Brenner, have you eaten? Do you want to join us?”

When Janet heard that, her eyes turned slightly cold.

Because of Tessa’s words, she was at a disadvantage again. At the same time, her words also made a clear boundary on their statuses.

Janet was the guest, whereas Tessa was the host.

Nonetheless, Janet could only suppress her anger and agreed to join them for breakfast.

She did so simply because she did not want to let Nicholas be alone with Tessa.

In the brightly lit dining hall, Tessa asked the servants to serve the breakfast she had made.

Of course, she did not forget about the food Janet brought too.

“What would you like to eat, Nicholas? I’ll serve it for you.” She looked at Nicholas tenderly.

Nicholas looked back at her and smiled. “I want to eat the salmon spinach quiche you made.”

Nodding, Tessa then served him a plate of salmon spinach quiche.

As for the breakfast that Janet brought, Nicholas did not even look at it.

Looking at the warm interaction between the two, Janet gritted her teeth secretly.

At this moment, Tessa beckoned with a smile when she saw Janet had not touched her tableware for a long while, “Miss Brenner, help yourself and eat some too.”

When she saw Tessa acting like the household’s mistress, she felt even more irate by the turn of events.

As she was unwilling to let Tessa win, she pushed the plate over when she saw Nicholas had not tasted the breakfast she had brought.

“Try this, Nicholas. It tastes delicious.”

However, as if he did not hear that, Nicholas turned his head to the girl beside him and asked with a warm voice, “Aren’t you going to eat some?”

“No, I have eaten with Greg earlier.”

Unexpectedly, Gregory had already finished his class just as Tessa finished saying this. He had a skip in his step as he made his way downstairs.

“Daddy, you’re awake! Is your body feeling better?” His eyes were full of concern as he looked at Nicholas.

At this moment, he also spotted Janet, and the smile on his face turned distant. However, he still addressed her politely. “Good morning, Miss Brenner.”

“Good morning, Greg.”

Despite disliking the child, Janet still had to put up a facade.

Gregory nodded and did not wish to pay further attention to her.

Then, he turned to look at Tessa, and his smile turned into a genuine one again.

“Miss Tessa, the teacher taught me to draw just now.”

He happily trotted toward Tessa. Then, he threw himself directly into Tessa’s arms, raised his head, and chimed, “I drew a family of three. I drew all of us in there. Look.”

As he spoke, he spread out the drawing sheet in his hand and handed it to Tessa as if he was offering a treasure.

Tessa smiled as she picked it up to take a look, and she found that the drawing was well drawn.

Although the lines of the portraits drawn on the paper were simple and unsophisticated, the colors matched well.

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Chapter 679 You Meddle Too Much

The color was divided into two parts. The upper half was painted in blue and represented the sky, while the lower half was painted in green and represented the grass.

Gregory also painted several flowers on the grass. Nevertheless, the most prominent part of this drawing was its portraits. Although it was a little abstract, it was not hideous, and everyone had a smile. The painting looked very artistic, with the adults holding the child as they stood side by side.

“Miss Tessa, did I draw it well?” Gregory looked at Tessa expectantly, and his face practically had ‘praise me!’ written all over it.

Tessa laughed and sincerely praised him, “It’s very nice. You’re really amazing.”

The smile on Gregory’s face became sweeter upon hearing her happy words, and he became more motivated. “Then, I will practice and take my lessons seriously so I can draw a portrait that’s as pretty as you.”

“In that case, I will eagerly wait for that day.” Tessa encouraged the little guy. Then, she saw Nicholas looking at them dotingly with a smile on his lips. So, she smiled as she handed over the watercolor drawing in her hand.

“Look at Greg’s drawing. Isn’t it beautiful?”

“It’s quite good.” Nicholas lowered his eyes and glanced at the drawing. The curvature of his lips rose a little once more.

I like this drawing and what Greg said just now even more. A family of three... Aren’t we a family of three?

At this thought, Nicholas' facial expression became even more gentle.

Looking at the three talking and laughing, Janet discovered that she couldn't interrupt them at all, and her jealousy kept surging to new heights.

Particularly, from her point of view, she was just like an outsider, whereas Nicholas and the others were like a family of three.

Janet really couldn't stomach any more of the constant laughter ringing in her ears.

I don't understand. Why does Greg look distant and indifferent every time he sees me? Yet why doesn't he ostracize Tessa? Furthermore, he even acts so affectionately with Tessa.

At this moment, she felt incredibly left out as she looked at the three interacting harmoniously with each other.

Still, she was very unwilling to leave just like this.

In the end, she forcibly suppressed the churning jealousy in her heart. Instead, she looked at Tessa as she smiled, "Miss Reinhart, I heard that you were away frequently. So, how can you still be so close with Greg?"

"Although I was away often, Greg and I video called each other daily."

No doubt, Tessa could hear that Janet's words were directed toward her with malicious intent. So, although the smile on her face remained unchanged, the joy in her voice was subdued.

Janet pretended not to hear her warning as she insisted. "Video calls are mere video calls. But it will also be hard for you to take care of him if he encounters any problems. Am I right, Miss Reinhart?"

At this point, Tessa was a little displeased as her brows furrowed slightly before smoothing out as she still gave Janet a courteous smile. "Everyone has different

opinions. Besides, I think the technology these days is so advanced that even if we're not together, it still won't take long if we wish to meet."

Janet did not expect that Tessa would tactfully rebuff her. Hence, she was a little irked.

She inhaled deeply as she continued to find fault in Tessa.

"Greg is at that stage where he lacks maternal love. I heard from Mrs. Sawyer that she hopes to have a daughter-in-law who is family-oriented."

She looked at Tessa with a mirthless smile, and there were slight traces of smugness in her eyes.

Her words carried two meanings. Firstly, she wanted to tell Tessa sarcastically that she was not Gregory's biological mother, regardless of her close relationship with Gregory. Secondly, she wanted to brag to Tessa that she had a good relationship with Nicholas' family.

Naturally, Tessa comprehended the meaning behind her words. Yet, she was slightly taken aback and didn't know how to react to Janet's barbed words.

At this moment, Gregory also sensed something wrong with Janet's words. In an instant, his initially smiling little face became fierce.

"I don't want anyone else. I only need Miss Tessa!"

He glared at Janet angrily with puffy cheeks and defended Tessa through his words. "Although Miss Tessa is usually away, and I will miss her a lot, I don't mind."

Similarly, Nicholas had a sullen look on his face. Even though he did not utter a word, he obviously did not mind that Tessa was away often.

However, Janet was unaware of his thoughts on the matter.

When she heard Gregory's words, she was utterly enraged.

Tessa is truly a remarkable woman. She can coax Greg to stand up for her to this extent before she even married Nicholas.

"You don't mind, but does that mean Nicholas won't mind?"

"Why would you care whether I mind or not? You're way out of bounds."

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Chapter 680 Whistleblower

Nicholas directly criticized coldly, “Greg doesn’t even mind. Who do you think you are to say those things?”

He said those words so frigidly that it made Janet feel a chill down her spine, and she could no longer maintain the smile on her face.

In an instant, the atmosphere turned absolutely awkward.

Despite disliking the woman’s passive-aggressive manner of speech, Tessa helped to mediate the situation as the woman was still their guest.

“Come, let’s eat. Otherwise, the food is going to get cold.”

However, Janet no longer had the appetite to eat at this moment.

So, she ignored Tessa and looked at the indifferent-looking man opposite her with a forceful tug on her lips. “You are right. I have completely overstepped.”

Nicholas didn’t spare her a glance and enjoyed his salmon spinach quiche on his own.

Janet only felt even more embarrassed when she saw his actions.

Since she didn’t want to continue to make a fool out of herself in front of Tessa, she immediately came up with an excuse to leave.

Once she stepped out of the gate of Dynasty Gardens, she suddenly stopped and abruptly turned her head to look at the majestic manor behind her. When she remembered the scene she witnessed in the dining hall a while ago, her gaze was gloomy, and her expression twisted into a ghastly look.

Meanwhile, in the dining hall, Tessa frowned slightly as she looked in the direction that Janet had left.

She could feel that Janet was miserable when she left. So, she asked in concern, “Is it alright for Miss Brenner to leave like that?”

“She’s no one of importance. So, don’t bother much about her,” Nicholas said as he ate another mouthful of the salmon spinach quiche.

Similarly, Gregory, who was next to her, nodded in agreement and took the opportunity to confess. “Miss Tessa, you can just ignore her. I don’t like her anyway. I only like you.”

“Aw, Greg, did you eat candy today? Why is your little mouth so sweet?” Gregory’s flattering words overjoyed Tessa.

With that, she pinched the little guy’s cheek affectionately.

Gregory did not mind his cheek being pinched either. Instead, he smiled even joyfully. “I didn’t eat any candy. Everything I say is true. Miss Tessa, I like you the most!”

As Tessa listened, she simply felt charmed deep down as if her heart had drunk nectar.

Later, Nicholas wanted to get up and go to work in the study after he was done with his breakfast.

Due to the injury on his body not completely healed yet, he planned to stay at home for this period of time.

Tessa did not stop him when she saw that and only urged, “Don’t get too tired and don’t sit for too long as well. You need to get up and exercise a little.”

Nicholas nodded with a smile upon hearing her fussing over him. Then, he went to his study.

About noon, Edward came to the residence to report to his boss.

When he saw Tessa and Gregory playing in the living room, he greeted them before heading upstairs.

He raised his hand and knocked on the door once he stood before the study's door.

“Come in.” Nicholas’ stern voice sounded from inside.

Edward pushed open the door and went in. Then, respectfully, he stood in the center of the room and started reporting company-related matters.

Once he had finished with his report, he talked about the disclosure of Cole’s whereabouts from last time. “President Sawyer, according to the investigation done by our men, it is confirmed that there is indeed a whistleblower in Mr. Spurse’s team. But we haven’t found out in detail who it is yet.”

Nicholas narrowed his eyes once he heard that.

After he pondered the matter for a while, a cold gleam flashed in his eyes, and he ordered, “You can directly instruct our men to investigate Janet.”

Previously, he didn’t feel something was off. However, when he carefully thought about the whole incident, he realized that Janet acted oddly during this period.

The more he thought about it, the more he felt this woman’s behavior was suspicious, especially when she kept stopping him from leaving after he was injured. This made him feel relatively disgusted.

As Edward was unaware of these, he was a little stunned and asked, “Are you suspecting that it was Miss Brenner who disclosed the information?”

“You’ll be able to know whether it was her or not after you’ve investigated.”

Although Edward didn’t believe that Janet would do something like this, he still received the order and left to investigate her.

That afternoon, Cole also visited Nicholas as he was concerned about Nicolas’ injury; he was here to check up on him.

After he took a seat, he couldn’t help but nag, “You’re too reckless. It’s quite out of your character, considering you don’t look like someone who’s so impulsive on normal days.”

“Well, my impulsive behavior is selective.” Nicholas curled the corner of his mouth slightly, and his eyes turned gentle.

Cole instantly knew that there was something up with Nicholas once he saw this.

Just as he was about to ask, a knock on the door interrupted him.

It turned out that it was Tessa who brought tea over for them.

When he saw her, he immediately stood up from the sofa and wanted to help.

However, she avoided his help. “No, it’s fine. I’ll do it. You should be more mindful of your injuries.”