### Chapter 701 Apology

"I have an appointment, and I was held back for a considerable while just now. Now, I have to rush there, so I'll treat you to a meal next time."

"We're family, so there's no need to be so courteous."

Kieran walked over and patted Timothy on the shoulder while smiling as he said, "Go ahead, then. It's also time for me to go back with my friends."

Timothy nodded and went to meet his client with Henry. After that, Kieran also left with his friends.

The others exchanged glances before they went their separate ways as well. In an instant, only Yvette and the rich guy were left in the originally lively corridor.

She looked at the guy who was holding his stomach and grimacing, then hastily went up to him and asked out of concern, "Are you okay?"

"Get lost!"

He pushed her away in anger. "It's all because of a wretch like you that I offended Master Nicholas. You better pray that I'll be okay, or you won't be safe from harm if I am finished!"

With that, he turned and left. It was true that he had been pursuing Yvette, but his gaze was set on the Turner Family's property. After all, Yvette was the only daughter of the Turner Family.

Yvette didn't know what the guy was plotting. After she was pushed to the floor by her ex-admirer, a look of embarrassment flashed across her face before she was filled with more regret.

If only she knew that Timothy had a powerful background, then she might have persisted no matter what.

Once at home, Yvette recalled everything that happened at night, and the more she recalled, the more anxious she became.

She was worried that he would seek revenge on her own company, so she hastily went to the study to see her father.

"Dad, I might have gotten us into trouble."

She entered through the door and vaguely explained everything that had happened in the club.

When she was done, she looked anxiously at her father, trying to defend herself as she added, "I thought that Timothy only had some tricks up his sleeve, and that's how he got involved with Sawyer Group. I never thought that this relationship existed between them."

Hearing that, Lucas Turner's expression darkened. "I always tell you to look at the big picture, and you really did well before. Why did you get so impatient this time?"

He looked at Yvette with an accusatory glare, but Yvette felt wronged. "It's not entirely my fault. I've been trying so hard, but Timothy still ignored me, and he even helped another woman to bully me. I've never been treated like that before."

"You were probably too pampered by other people and now, you've gotten too proud!" Lucas reprimanded in anger.

Yvette bit her lip, unsure of how to retort. She gripped her clothes and said worriedly, "Dad, do you think Timothy will get revenge on us? Will Master Nicholas also give us trouble?"

Seeing his daughter's worried expression, Lucas was madder. "You're only getting scared now, huh? Even if you look down on Timothy, you shouldn't have offended him!"

She was scolded so terribly that she didn't dare say another word.

He chose to ignore her. The most important thing right now is to repair our relationship with Timothy.

"Come with me to Reinhart Group tomorrow. We'll apologize to Timothy in person."

This is the best choice we have now.

Even though Yvette wasn't willing to do so, she still agreed to her father's plan.

. . .

At noon the next day, Lucas and Yvette brought a gift with them as they paid Timothy a visit.

Timothy decided that it was time for this incident to be wrapped up, so he agreed to the meeting. In the office, he sat on the couch with a stoic expression on his face while Yvette and Lucas sat on the opposite side. The father and daughter duo looked rather cautious with their every move.

Lucas kept signaling at Yvette with his eyes, as if he hadn't noticed her uneasiness. However, Yvette hadn't fully prepared herself yet, so she pretended she hadn't seen it.

In the end, he became impatient and urged unhappily, "Say sorry to President Reinhart."

She bit her lip, but the words of apology didn't leave her mouth. When Lucas saw that, his expression turned dark, but he knew it wasn't the time to tell her off.

He ignored Yvette and wore a smile as he said to Timothy, "I've been too lenient on this child at home. She's actually not a bad girl. Say, let's have a meal together, my treat. I'll compensate you and offer an apology."

Chapter 702 Retort

"No need for the meal. As for the apology, I don't think it's necessary either."

Timothy gave Lucas a cold look as he said without mercy, "I've clearly told Miss Turner yesterday that the partnership between our families has come to an end."

Hearing that, Lucas turned pale in the face. He was also a little annoyed, thinking that Timothy was too cruel with his choice of words.

Even if he was very dissatisfied, he could only endure it because of Timothy's relationship with Nicholas.

As he was about to persuade a change of heart, the door to the office suddenly opened.

Tessa walked in with a lunch box because she had promised her brother that she would deliver his meals today. When Timothy saw Tessa walking in, his originally haughty face turned gentle in an instant.

"Tess, you're here."

Tessa nodded as she walked over to him, carrying the lunch box.

When Yvette saw Tessa walking slowly toward them, her face fell.

She never thought that this woman was Timothy's sister and also the mistress of the Sawyer Group. When she remembered the horrible words she said to this woman, her face instantly turned pale.

Just then, Tessa frowned when she caught sight of Yvette and her father sitting on the couch. Even though she didn't know Lucas, Lucas looked very much like Yvette, so it wasn't difficult to guess their relationship.

"Why are they here?"

"Nothing, they'll be gone soon."

With that, Timothy asked his assistant to escort the guests out.

Lucas also guessed Tessa's identity, and he was reluctant to leave.

But he knew that if he stayed, he would only annoy Timothy and Tessa even more. So, he left quickly with Yvette.

Once out of the building, Lucas thought about how they had lost their golden opportunity to get involved with the prestigious Sawyer Group, and the more he thought about it, the more pissed he got.

"You useless thing! You've cut off the chance for our family to advance further just like that!"

In his anger, he gave Yvette a solid slap straight away.

Yvette covered her face, mad and upset, and she couldn't help but defend herself.

"Who knew that that woman would hide her identity? If she had told me who she was earlier, I wouldn't have done that, and everything afterward wouldn't have happened either."

"You're the one who lost your cool, but you still have the audacity to blame someone else?" Lucas immediately questioned the way his daughter rationalized her decisions. On the other hand, Yvette fell silent, unable to say anything in return. Timothy! Tessa! The both of you are horrible!

In the office, Tessa watched her brother eat as she asked, "What's up with those two just now?"

"They're here to apologize, but I have no intentions of forgiving them."

Timothy explained the incident in broad strokes, and Tessa approved of his decision. "That's good; it can stop that woman from bothering you."

"I think so too."

With that, Timothy asked in concern, "Have you eaten, Tess?"

"Yes, I have. I ate with Greg at home."

As Tessa spoke, she began chatting about daily life with her brother. The two laughed and talked happily, which was a warm sight to behold.

After the meal, Tessa accompanied her brother in the office for a while before leaving with the lunch box. She had just left the company when she was blocked by Yvette, who appeared out of nowhere.

Yvette stared daggers at Tessa, gritting her teeth as she said, "You're Timothy's sister, but why didn't you reveal your identity at first? Do you enjoy seeing me mess up?"

Hearing that, Tessa immediately switched to a cold expression. She never thought that Yvette wouldn't realize her own mistakes and even came to question her.

"First of all, you never gave me a chance, so I didn't get to tell you my identity. Also, I don't mind anyone pursuing my brother. However, I don't want a woman as arrogant and mean as you to get close to my brother or to become my sister-in-law. Also, you never thought much of my brother either."

As Yvette listened to Tessa's straightforward speech, she seemed a little embarrassed.

### Chapter 703 In the Rain

Tessa also didn't want to waste time on Yvette. Hence, she left right after warning the latter. "Don't latch yourself onto my brother ever again, or I won't go easy on you."

As Yvette watched Tessa leave, she was so mad that she almost screamed. At this moment, she couldn't deny it anymore: she had really been blind!

After going home, Tessa forgot all about Yvette, accompanying Gregory in his violin practice in the music room. The two had a happy time together.

In the evening, Nicholas returned. When he saw Tessa sitting alone in the living room, he couldn't help but ask, "Where's Greg?"

"He's upstairs doing the homework his tutor assigned him," Tessa reported honestly. Then, she got up and went over to Nicholas, helpfully taking his briefcase from him.

Nicholas took her hand and led her upstairs as if it were the most natural thing in the world. As he walked, he asked, "You've been home all day?"

"Not really. I delivered Timothy's lunch at noon."

When Tessa mentioned this, she remembered Yvette and her father. She couldn't help but tell Nicholas about it.

"I keep feeling that Yvette isn't someone to give up so easily. I'm a little worried that she will bother my brother again in the future."

When Nicholas saw the worry on the lady's face, he put an arm around her shoulders to comfort her. "Don't worry. I'll keep an eye on them when you're away. If they don't know their place, I'll take action."

Hearing that, Tessa felt touched, knowing Nicholas was only concerned about her brother because of her.

"I'm glad to have met you."

She couldn't help but embrace Nicholas. Nicholas looked at the sweetly smiling lady in his arms, and he couldn't hold back in teasing her. "That's all?"

Tessa gazed at the man's mischievous expression, and she knew what he was thinking.

"What about this?"

As she spoke, she stood on tiptoe and planted a kiss on Nicholas' pink lips.

It was a soft touch that lasted for only a fleeting moment, but Nicholas could hardly be satisfied by a shallow kiss like this. He wrapped his arms tightly around Tessa's waist, then lowered his head and deepened the kiss.

For the next two days, it was as Tessa predicted; Yvette didn't want to give up on Timothy just yet, for she kept watch at the entrance of the company.

Her father said that she was beautiful, and men would feel pity for someone with her beauty. So, if she persevered, it might soften Timothy's heart.

That day, she was still persistently waiting as usual on the first floor of Timothy's company. However, she had waited for so long that it began to rain, yet Timothy was nowhere in sight.

In order to express her sincerity, she decided to keep waiting in the rain, hoping that her pitiful look would soften Timothy's heart. Despite standing in the rain for a long time, Timothy still didn't appear.

Meanwhile, news of her was already spreading throughout the company like wildfire.

"This woman is really cunning. Does she think Mr. Reinhart will forgive her just like that?"

"Hey, she does look kind of pitiful. Maybe Mr. Reinhart will really soften down."

"He will never do that. Do you know what this woman did? She insulted his sister."

"There's no hope for her then. Everyone in our company knows that the most important person to Mr. Reinhart is his sister."

The crowd whispered among each other.

Henry also overheard some conversations between his subordinates. Later in the day, when he went to discuss some business matters with Timothy, he mentioned it in passing.

"Timothy, that woman Yvette is seemingly suffering as she waits for you downstairs. Don't let her get her hands on you after work, or she'd hold it against you."

"I know. Let's not talk about her. How's the partnership with New Age coming along?"

Timothy didn't want to waste time on unrelated people, so he changed the subject. Thus, the two continued talking about work.

After work in the evening, Henry carried an umbrella as he walked out of the company. When he saw that Yvette was still standing outside, he frowned deeply.

This woman is as stubborn as a mule.

He originally wanted to pretend he hadn't seen anything and leave right away. Unexpectedly, Yvette rushed up to him and blocked his way.

#### Chapter 704 Resolved

Yvette looked terrible, unlike her usual sophisticated self. Her clothes were drenched, and her hair stuck messily to her face, which was pale. She was cold and suffering, but she really did look kind of pitiful, in a sense.

"Mr. Tompkins, where's Timothy? Is he still at work?"

She was so cold that she crossed her arms, and she was shivering all over. However, Henry didn't pity her in the slightest. After all, she did it to herself.

"Yvette, stop wasting your efforts. Timothy will never meet you."

Henry spoke coldly. "Didn't you help some rich guy insult Timothy? If I were to have a say in this matter, I think you should go to him instead of bothering Timothy."

Hearing that, Yvette felt a fire of rage burning inside her. She had humbled herself so much, but Timothy still wanted to act so tough. However, no matter how mad she was, she knew that the most important thing right now was to get Timothy's forgiveness.

"Mr. Tompkins, I'm here to apologize in all sincerity. Can you please get Timothy to come here?"

"No can do!" Henry declined decisively as he said in disdain, "Also, Timothy doesn't want your apology."

With that, he left while holding his umbrella. In the office upstairs, Timothy had been watching the entire scene. He didn't even have to think to know what Yvette said to Henry after blocking his way.

He only felt disgust at Yvette's pretentious behavior. So, in order to avoid Yvette, he went to the underground parking lot right away, then drove to Dynasty Gardens.

When he arrived at Dynasty Gardens, Timothy didn't tell Tessa about Yvette either. He had dinner with his sister and brother-in-law. It was a heartwarming sight to behold.

Later in the day after the meal, Tessa remembered that it had been some time since she last gave her brother dry needling, so she took out the dry needling kit and decided to carry it out today.

Even though her brother's leg was slowly recovering, it still took too long, and she minded that greatly.

As Gregory saw the needles sticking out of Timothy's leg, he was both surprised and terrified.

"Uncle Tim, don't you feel pain with all the needles poking into you?"

He looked curiously at Timothy as he said in his adorable voice, "I got an injection before too, and it hurt a lot. Shall I blow on it for you?"

As Timothy looked at the caring and adorable child, he chuckled. "Thank you, Greg, but it's not painful for me. You can go play."

He gently patted Gregory on the forehead.

As Tessa looked at the smile on her brother's face, she asked, "You finally smiled. You'd been pursing your lips all night, and you looked so upset. What happened?"

Timothy was stunned. "Was it that obvious?"

"If you don't believe me, you can ask your brother-in-law." As Tessa spoke, she looked in Nicholas' direction. Noticing that, Nicholas nodded cooperatively. "Yes, it was quite obvious."

Hearing that, Timothy pursed his lips again.

Just then, Tessa asked again, "Did you run into some sort of trouble?"

Thinking for a bit, Timothy said right away, "It's not trouble per se. It's just that Yvette has been keeping watch at the company entrance these days. It's annoying."

"How persistent can she be?" Tessa frowned in disgust.

As Nicholas watched the siblings' upset expressions, the look in his eyes darkened a little. "Leave it to me."

With that, he immediately sent a message to Edward. On the other end, when Edward received the orders, he immediately contacted Lucas.

"Mr. Turner, our president says that if you still allow Yvette to bother our mistress' brother, the Turner Family will no longer have any standing in this city."

When Lucas heard that, no matter how much ulterior motive he had, he had to guarantee continuously, "I'll keep a vigilant eye on Yvette and forbid her from trying to meet Mr. Reinhart ever again."

"Be sure to keep your word." With that, Edward hung up right away and sent a message to his president.

When Nicholas received the message, he gave it an indifferent glance, then put his phone away.

"The matter is resolved. Yvette won't bother you ever again."

Chapter 705 Bidding Goodbye

Timothy nodded in thanks. "Thank you so much, Nicholas."

After a while, Tessa began removing the needles on her brother's body.

Gregory also scooted over and watched curiously. However, right after the needles were retrieved, the phone Tessa left on the desk began to ring. It was a call from Hathaway.

"Miss Hathaway, it's been awhile."

"Tessa, how is your fiance's injury?"

"Thank you for your concern, Miss Hathaway. He's almost fully recovered."

"If that's so, you should gather your things and prepare to return to Vienna. After all, you're the lead violinist, so you shouldn't be absent for too long. If not, the other members would start complaining. Also, starting next month, Group Two will be performing in another country. There were quite a few shows scheduled, so you have to come back and practice together."

Hearing that, despite her reluctance to leave Nicholas and the others, Tessa still agreed.

"Got it. I'll hurry back as soon as I can."

With that, she ended the call. When Nicholas saw her disappointed look, he took her hand and led her to a seat next to him, asking, "What's the matter?"

"Miss Hathaway asked me to go back as soon as possible."

Tessa didn't hide anything as she described the situation briefly. Nicholas and Gregory immediately expressed their reluctance.

Gregory hugged Tessa and said in a sullen tone, "I don't want you to leave."

Tessa smiled and lightly patted the child on the back as she said, "It's okay. I'll come back when I have time in the future."

Actually, she was reluctant to leave as well. However, fortunately, Nicholas' injuries had healed considerably, so she wouldn't need to worry. When Timothy heard that Tessa would be leaving soon, he was filled with longing.

"When are you planning to leave, Tessa? I can take you to the airport."

As soon as Timothy spoke those words, Nicholas and Gregory also looked toward Tessa.

Tessa thought for a bit before saying, "I'll be leaving tomorrow."

Hearing that, Gregory pouted and pleaded pitifully, "Can't you stay for a few more days?"

"I'm afraid that if I stay longer, I won't be willing to leave anymore."

Tessa pinched the little guy's face as she promised, "In the future, I'll come back to see you as often as I can when I have the time. If you miss me, you can ask your daddy to bring you along on a trip to visit me."

Even though Gregory was still upset, he didn't say anything else because he knew that he couldn't stop Tessa from leaving.

After comforting the child, Tessa turned and looked at her brother, reminding him, "When I'm gone, make sure you eat your meals and go for checkups regularly. I'll ask your brother-in-law to keep an eye on you."

Of course, Timothy agreed to everything. Perhaps because Tessa would be leaving the next day, no one was in a rush to go to bed that night.

It was especially so for Gregory, who was obviously tired out, but he still insisted on sticking to Tessa. She didn't know if she should laugh or cry, but still, she coaxed the little guy to sleep.

Later that night, after she had put the child to bed, she returned to the living room to see Nicholas all alone. She couldn't help but ask, "Where's Timothy?"

"I asked him to rest."

As Nicholas spoke, he stepped forward and led Tessa back to the bedroom.

After all, Tessa would be leaving the next day. He didn't want other people to waste their precious time alone.

. . .

The next day, after breakfast, the group headed for the airport. When it was time to board the plane, Gregory sobbed sorrowfully as he hugged Tessa.

He looked so pitiful that for an instant, Tessa really wanted to say that she wouldn't leave anymore. Fortunately, her reasoning won against her impulse.

"Don't cry, Greg. I'll be back to see you whenever I'm free."

Tessa held Gregory in her arms as she tried to convince the little guy. It took a long while for the child to be satisfied.

Just then, Timothy walked up to her and said, "Do take care of yourself, Tessa. You're all alone overseas."

Tessa nodded, then her gaze fell upon Nicholas.

"I'll go over when I have time."

With that, Nicholas planted a kiss on Tessa's forehead, saying in a low voice, "Take good care of yourself. Don't make me worry."

Tessa nodded, then turned and left.

Timothy and the father-son duo left the airport only when they could no longer see Tessa's figure.

Chapter 706 Back to Vienna

After that, Timothy went to work, while Nicholas took Gregory back to Dynasty Gardens. Not long after they came home, Remus came over.

"Great-grandpa, why are you here?" When Gregory saw Remus, he was pleasantly surprised.

Remus smiled and said, "I'm here to talk to your daddy."

As he spoke, he gestured for Andrew to take Gregory away.

Seeing that, Nicholas frowned and asked, "What's the matter, Grandpa?"

Hearing that, Remus dropped the gentle expression on his face. "Now that I've given you such a long time to date someone, it's about time you stop fooling around. You should stop this game and find someone suitable to marry. As for Tessa, I will never allow you to be with her."

When Nicholas heard that, his expression instantly turned cold. However, since Remus had just recovered, he didn't want to talk about this right now. So, he smoothed over it by saying, "This is my private matter. You don't have to worry too much about it."

As Remus looked at the cold-faced man, he knew what the latter was thinking. He was a little angry, but there wasn't much he could do.

After more than 10 hours of flight, Tessa finally arrived in Vienna.

It was still daytime in Vienna when she arrived.

Outside the airport, Kylie had already waited for quite some time. When she saw Tessa emerge from the airport, she respectfully came forward and helped Tessa with the luggage.

Once in the car, Tessa sent Nicholas and her brother text messages to tell them that she had arrived. When she was done, she dialed Hathaway's number.

"Miss Hathaway, I'm back."

"Now that you're back, you should rest for the day. Come to the orchestra tomorrow."

"Thank you, Miss Hathaway."

After thanking her, Tessa ended the call.

. . .

Early the next day, Tessa went to the orchestra with her violin on her back. After she got in, a number of people greeted her.

"Morning, Tessa."

"You're back, Tessa."

Tessa nodded as she smiled and responded to each of them, "Morning."

As she was about to head for Group Two's training room, she saw Hathaway walking toward her.

"Miss Hathaway," she greeted courteously.

Hathaway smiled and nodded. "I thought you'd come back after a few days, but you're here so soon. Did something happen?"

"No, nothing at all."

Tessa could feel her teacher's concern for her, and she smiled sweetly.

Their conversation was overheard by Kathleen, who was late.

When she saw how much her mother cared about Tessa, she felt horrible inside.

She couldn't help but walk over to them and say mockingly, "Tessa, look how arrogant you are! You just have a little bit of fame, but you're already putting on airs."

"Since when have I put on airs?"

Tessa frowned, wondering what Kathleen was getting at.

Kathleen mocked, "The others came back to train after the performance, but you're the only one who took so many days off."

As soon as she spoke those words, a number of people around them expressed their disapproval. Some of them even wanted to say something, but their friends stopped them.

"Tessa has the music director backing her, so she'll never be at a disadvantage. If you go out there and speak up for Tessa, Kathleen might turn her wrath on you."

Hearing that, the people who wanted to help Tessa fell silent. However, Tessa knew nothing of these things. She didn't want to leave a bad impression on the other members due to what Kathleen said, so she explained briefly.

"I didn't come back right away because I had a very important matter to attend to."

"You're just busy dating someone, aren't you? If you don't put more effort into music, you'd better resign as soon as possible. If not, you'd be dragging the orchestra down and delaying other people too." Kathleen looked at Tessa, sneering.

Tessa's expression sank a little. This lady is really unreasonable. As Hathaway stood at the side, her expression wasn't too nice either.

"Kathleen, if you have time for nonsense like this, why don't you take the time to reflect on the reason your skills have regressed so much these days?"

When she heard how protective her mother was of Tessa, she was furious beyond measure.

She didn't even think twice about defending Tessa.

Tessa also didn't want to waste time on a meaningless bicker.

Chapter 707 I Missed You So Much

After speaking with Hathaway, Tessa carried her violin as she made her way to Group Two's training room to practice.

Even though she took so many days off, with her capabilities, her skills didn't regress. Instead, she even showed improvement because she would take some time every day to practice in the music room with Gregory.

Later in the day, Mona also came to the orchestra.

She was elated when she noticed that Tessa was back. She also knew of the conflict between Tessa and Kathleen some time ago, so she said comfortingly, "Don't pay any mind to Kathleen's words. She's just exaggerating. Quite a number of us just came back a few days ago, and even she herself only came back three days ago."

Tessa never really took the incident to heart. However, when she heard Mona trying to comfort her, she was still quite happy about it.

"Let's not talk about Kathleen anymore. Come, let's start practicing." She invited Mona to practice together, to which the latter agreed without a second thought.

Later in the day, the other members of Group Two also arrived to officially begin rehearsing. Time always flew by when they practiced, and in an instant, the day was over.

After bidding Hathaway and the other orchestra members goodbye, Tessa went to Louis' manor with her violin.

In the luxurious living room sat Louis with a stoic expression. When he saw Tessa, whom he hadn't met in a long time, hints of a smile bloomed on his face. "When did you come back?"

"Yesterday. I began orchestra practice today, and I rushed over to see you first thing after practice."

She probably saw Louis as family, so when she spoke, her tone sounded ever so loving. The two chatted for a while before Louis suddenly changed the subject as he asked, "What did you feel about performing in Yvetlava?"

"Quite good. I'm one step closer to the stage of my dreams."

At the mention of her dreams, Tessa could barely hide the twinkle in her eyes.

Seeing that, Louis was a little curious as he asked, "Where is the stage of your dreams?"

"My dream is to get into Wiener Musikverein, and to hold a solo concert there!"

Tessa was one to reach for the stars.

Louis was a little surprised, but he also thought it reasonable. After all, every successful musician would hope that they would hold their own concert on the topmost stage.

"This dream isn't too difficult, but nor is it too easy. Do work hard to get there."

"I will." Tessa nodded enthusiastically. Then, she seemed to have remembered something as she produced an exquisite porcelain teacup and a container of top-grade tea leaves. Placing them on the table, she clarified, "This is the present I prepared specially for you. I hope you like it."

When Louis saw the teacup on the table, he was immediately fascinated by it. It was a teacup with strong motifs that resembled ancient Xerthania. Its base color

was azure, and there were faint lines of varying thickness all over the porcelain cup. If one held it to the light, the cup would look like water in a lake with ever-changing ripples.

"I love it. Thank you so much."

Smiling, he put away the teacup and asked the butler to carefully take it to his study.

After that, he invited Tessa to stay for dinner. Tessa didn't decline, but just as they were about to dine, Angus arrived.

When Louis saw his handsome nephew, he had a tone of disdain as he said, "You rarely drop by, but now that Tessa is back, you came as soon as you could."

"Can I say that this is pure coincidence?" Angus shrugged, his eyes twinkling. Even though he really did come for Tessa, he couldn't admit to it.

Louis humphed, not believing his nephew's words for a second. However, he didn't expose the latter either. When Angus saw that, he proceeded to ignore his uncle.

Straightaway, he took a seat opposite Tessa, and with sparkling eyes, he smiled and said, "I missed you a lot these few days when you weren't around."

Tessa smiled, not thinking too much about it because she saw him as nothing but a friend. The three continued chatting, and the atmosphere was bright and friendly.

After that, when they had taken their dinner, it was late in the evening, so Tessa decided to take her leave.

"I'll send you back."

Angus took his coat as he moved to leave with Tessa.

Chapter 708 Remus' Ulterior Motive

Tessa smiled and said, "No need for that. My driver is waiting for me outside."

After hearing the lady's words, Angus had no choice but to forget about the idea of taking Tessa home. He then walked Tessa to the car and stood there without moving for a while. Not long after that, Louis came closer with a pair of furrowed brows on his face.

"After so many rejections, you still won't give up, will you?" Nonetheless, Angus only responded with silence to his uncle's question.

Meanwhile, Tessa received a video call from Nicholas as soon as she arrived home. Gazing at the lady on the phone screen, the man asked in a concerned manner, "How do you feel today?"

Pretty good, but I'm still adjusting to life without you and Gregory." Tessa looked at Nicholas in a disappointed manner.

Feeling sympathetic for the woman he loved, he comforted her and said, "It's okay. I'll always be by your side whenever you need me."

"But I don't want you to tire yourself out." She shook her head as she didn't want Nicholas to do anything reckless for her.

"What are you going to do when you miss me then?" He smiled in embarrassment.

"I'll call you like what I'm doing now."

"I'll be on standby with my phone twenty-four seven for you." Nicholas' sweet talking slowly lifted Tessa's mood. After a few more moments of chatting, he

looked at Tessa, who was sleeping in a lovely manner, and whispered with a gentle voice, "Good night, my girl."

. . .

After that, Tessa had been busy with her tight schedules of training courses as usual, while Nicholas was occupied by his work most of the time. While Remus' birthday was just around the corner, everyone in the Sawyer Family gathered around one night, which also happened to be their weekly family dinner.

Then, Stefania brought up Remus' birthday celebration for discussion and suggested her own idea. "Father, Tobias and I are planning to organize a grand birthday feast for you." After all, Remus had been in bad health throughout the year, and she was hoping that the uplifting occasion would improve his luck.

However, she didn't speak her mind about why she wanted to hold a grand birthday feast for him. Despite Remus' unawareness of Stefania's true intention, he had no objection to her suggestion.

On the other hand, Kieran was surprised to hear Stefania's proposition. He then leaned closer to his brother and whispered in confusion, "Hey, I thought Grandpa had always preferred to keep a low profile, even for his birthday celebration. So, why is it different this year? Are there any strings attached?"

As Nicholas knitted his eyebrows in an unconcerned manner, Kieran's suspicion turned out to be correct. In fact, Remus was indeed up to something. The reason why he agreed with Stefania's idea to hold a grand birthday feast was that he wanted to turn the occasion into a huge matchmaking session for Nicholas, considering how dearly the young man still missed Tessa. I'm sure he is going to find a lady who catches his eye by then.

"Ian, have our people send out an invitation tomorrow. Any lady at a marriageable age is cordially invited to my birthday feast." Remus gave his butler an order as soon as Nicholas and his family left.

Knowing what Remus was up to, Ian hesitantly expressed his concern and explained, "But, Old Master Sawyer, I'm afraid that Master Nicholas is not going to be happy when he finds out about your plan."

"No, he won't be," Remus responded confidently.

After hearing the older man's firm response, the butler decided to do as he was told without saying a single word more.

Two days later, most of the women whose family was rich and established in the city received Remus' invitation to his birthday feast as the event became a viral topic around the country. After all, Remus had never held such a grand birthday feast in a while. For that, many people who were invited were proud of receiving Remus' invitation, while some of them couldn't help guessing about the older man's ulterior motive behind the occasion.

Not long after that, there were speculations and rumors circulating in the town, with some people thinking Remus was organizing his birthday feast to help the Sawyer brothers find their soulmates. Meanwhile, the others opined that the birthday feast was merely just a front for some businessmen to meet up.

Nevertheless, a lot of people were inclined to believe the first speculation, thinking whoever could form an alliance with the Sawyer Family would thrive under its protection. In a matter of days, Remus' birthday feast was widely known across town as it was all over the news, with the media broadcasting every charitable action the older man had ever done.

### Chapter 709 The Classic Literature

Out of all the charitable things that Remus had done, he once spent a fortune purchasing a lot of stolen antiques from overseas and gave them back to the country for free. Because of that matter, the netizens gave the older man his blessings as a token of respect. In the meantime, Tessa was also aware of Remus' birthday feast but had no idea she should buy him as a present. Fortunately, she soon found out from the press that Remus had a liking for collecting vintage antiques. Thus, she began to wonder where she could buy some authentic antiques for him.

While Tessa was preoccupied with that matter, Mona was able to see through what was bothering her. Thus, the latter showed her concern and asked, "Are you alright, Tessa? What seems to be bothering you? You looked distracted in the past two days."

"Well, there is someone whose birthday is just around the corner in my family, and he is in love with vintage antique collections. However, I don't know where I could get my hands on one of those things. Do you know any place that sells antiques?" Tessa came clean with what was keeping her preoccupied.

At that moment, Scott, who happened to be walking in Tessa's direction, overheard what she was saying and replied, "You're in luck because I know a place where there will be an auction for antiques tonight."

"Mr. Brooks? When did you come here?" Tessa and Mona were both surprised when they heard the man's voice.

"When you both were busy talking to each other," Scott smiled and replied to the ladies, setting his eyes on Tessa gently. "If you're free tonight, I could take you there to have a look."

While Tessa had nothing else better to do, Mona couldn't make it because she was occupied by some other plans, even though she was interested in tagging along. Later that night, Tessa and Scott arrived at a five-star hotel where she was seen wearing a gray dress with a pair of furry shoulder laces. Besides that, her long dark hair, coupled with her beautiful make-up, only served to make her seem especially elegant and gorgeous as she smiled and stood beside Scott. As soon as the duo showed up, their unique appearances immediately turned many heads.

Soon, a few musicians, whom Tessa had known earlier in the bar, walked up to her and greeted her. "Hello, Miss Reinhart. We meet again."

"Greetings, fellas," Tessa responded politely.

In the meantime, Scott reacted to those musicians without any signs of awkwardness, smiling while nodding to them naturally. Not long after the few of them exchanged pleasantries, the auction began as Scott and Tessa sat in the first row of the seating area. Minutes later, the host officiated the event with his excellent sense of humor, successfully lightening up the atmosphere before he went on to introduce the first item to be sold.

It turned out that the first item was a piece of jewelry with a unique oriental design that immediately caught the eyes of many as soon as it was presented to the audience. The next moment, those rich women quickly raised their bidder card and shouted the price they were willing to offer, whereupon the item was eventually sold for three million.

As the host continued to introduce the antiques, each item was found to be more expensive than the previous one. Nonetheless, they were all rare jewelry that could never be found elsewhere. Therefore, the place was filled with excitement and thrill as everyone was delighted to witness those precious items.

Meanwhile, Tessa was in awe to see so many rare and priceless valuables but hadn't come across anything that caught her eye. Even so, she patiently waited, occasionally discussing the items onstage with Scott in whispers. Soon, Tessa finally saw something that attracted her when the host introduced it to the crowd.

"Now, we're going to take a look at an ancient piece classic literature text from Xerthania. With centuries of history, I'd say it's an antique worthy of collection. For that, it's going to be for sale, starting from 700,000." As soon as the host finished his words, a lady standing on the stage held the book and showed it to the audience.

Unlike the previous items, the literature didn't receive the acclamation it deserved, with a handful of people who raised their bidder cards. After all, they were put off by its old and unattractive appearance, thinking it wasn't worthy of their collection at all. However, there were some those who understood its value as they began to name their price for the item. "One million."

"One million and two hundred thousand."

"Two million."

"Two million and six hundred thousand."

As the competition began to get intense, Tessa raised her bidder card and shouted, "Three million." Nevertheless, there were more and more bidders who showed their interest in the literature book when they saw how well received the piece was getting. When someone offered five million to buy the book, the others stopped and gave up, except Tessa. "Five million and seven hundred thousand." As soon as her words were heard, the bidder who offered five million immediately gave up.

#### Chapter 710 Tessa's Secret Admirer

After all, the person, who initially wanted the classic literature, was only willing to pay no more than five million for the book, thinking that was only so much it was worth. Therefore, Tessa became the eventual buyer, who would be the classic literature's new owner.

When the auction was over, she confronted the staff members and got her hands on her prize. She then carefully kept it and smiled at Scott in gratitude. "Thank you so much for taking me here tonight. If it weren't for you, I would still be scratching my head, wondering what I should buy for someone's birthday present."

"It's not a big deal, actually. You helped me a lot too when I needed you." Scott reacted to Tessa with a gentle look, but deep down, he didn't like her politeness in front of him, deeming her overly courteous.

However, Tessa didn't know what was on the man's mind as she was relieved to have taken care of what had been bothering her. She then decided to treat Scott to supper as a token of appreciation for his company throughout the night. On the other hand, Scott, who wanted to spend more time with her, of course, agreed to her suggestion.

When they arrived at the restaurant, they began to chat happily during their enjoyable meal. Since both of them were violinists, most of their topics revolved around music. For that, Tessa consulted Scott for guidance, asking him for help, particularly about some methods to improve her techniques when playing the violin.

"Well, your finger placements will get better and more precise with practice, but there is no way you can rush it. Furthermore, your current level is more than enough for you to play the violin, so just take it easy." Upon answering Tessa's question, Scott went on to remind her to take care of her fingers. "Besides, you might want to do your finger a favor by giving them some treatment or remedy every time you're done with your training, otherwise they're going to hurt over time."

"Yeah, I'm aware of that, which is why I always massage them when I'm done with my practice." Tessa nodded with a smile.

Soon, they unknowingly changed their subject and talked about Kathleen as their conversation went on. "I heard Kathleen has been at odds with you lately. What's going on between you both?"

"Well, there is actually nothing wrong between us, but I guess the reason she opposes me is that she has a crush on you. After all, you and I are friends, but she won't have it at all." Tessa appeared to be helpless when she talked about Kathleen.

While Scott knitted his eyebrows and frowned at Kathleen's unpleasant attitude, Tessa was prompted by her curiosity to ask the former about his feelings for Kathleen. "Anyway, don't you feel the same way for her, Mr. Brooks?"

Scott gazed at the curious lady and shook his head. "Well, as much as I'd like to spend time with the person I'm in love with, Kathleen is just a friend to me. For that, we're not meant to be together," he said, looking sentimentally at Tessa, but the lady failed to notice anything unusual with the man's gaze.

Soon, Tessa nodded in agreement and replied with a smile, "You're right, Mr. Brooks. Love can't be forced, after all. Everyone deserves to be with the person they love."

Although Kathleen didn't do anything wrong falling in love with Scott, it seemed to Tessa that she had expressed her love for him in the wrong way. Instead of proving her worth and fighting for the love she craved, Kathleen was obsessed with pointing her finger at the others without reflecting on her own mistakes, much to Tessa's disappointment.

Upon murmuring to herself deep down, Tessa eventually grew tired of discussing Kathleen. She then changed the subject and asked, "Well, judging from your reply, it seems that you have a crush on someone else. Aren't I right?"

Scott was stunned for a second but somehow decided to admit it. "Actually, you're right."

Tessa couldn't believe her ears. After all, she was initially just trying to pull Scott's leg, only to be surprised by an unexpected answer from the man. Thus, she curiously pressed on with her question. "Is she among those whom we hang around with?"

"She is an outstanding violinist too," Scott said with a sympathetic look on his face.

Tessa was surprised, smiling and saying, "I bet you must be in love with this girl so much, Mr. Brooks. I can tell that from your sweet smile."

"Yeah, I like her very much." Scott nodded at Tessa in a serious manner but with a brittle smile on his face. Too bad she doesn't know I'm in love with her.

After their meal, Tessa got home and tidied up her belongings before giving Nicholas a video call. "You're back late tonight."

"I went to an auction and bought a book, which is about classic literature," Tessa revealed her plan earlier that night to Nicholas without hiding anything.