Chapter 771 Caught Red-Handed

It was what Tessa intended to do anyway, so she didn't turn Hathaway's suggestion down. After all, she thought the concert wasn't as important as Nicholas.

After thanking Hathaway, she asked, "How did the investigation go, Miss Hathaway? Did you manage to find the culprit?"

Likewise, Nicholas looked at Hathaway with narrowed eyes upon hearing so.

"It's precisely what I've come here for." While speaking, Hathaway looked apologetically at Tessa. "We couldn't find much from the surveillance footage, and the staff involved are complicated. As such, it's hard to say for sure who did it."

Nicholas wasn't surprised by Hathaway's answer. In fact, he had foreseen it. He just wasn't sure if Hathaway didn't manage to find the culprit or if she was deliberately harboring them.

He scrutinized the woman with aloofness, hoping she wouldn't disappoint Tessa.

The latter, who had no clue of Nicholas' thoughts, couldn't accept what Hathaway told her. In fact, she was rather upset. "Are they just going to brush it off like this?"

"Of course not." Hathaway tried to ease Tessa's mind and promised, "I will definitely see that the management gives you a justifiable answer."

Despite so, Tess was still grim.

Just then, Nicholas' subordinate knocked on the door and entered.

Tessa didn't recognize him, so she asked, "Sorry, but who are you?"

"I've come to give President Sawyer an update, Miss Tessa," replied the subordinate deferentially as he looked at Tessa.

At that, Nicholas looked knowingly at Hathaway. "It looks like we don't have to wait for the management to give us an answer."

Tessa and Hathaway were taken aback, but before they could ask, Nicholas turned to his subordinate expressionlessly. "What's the situation?"

"We've gotten to the bottom of it, boss," the subordinate reported his findings truthfully. "Kathleen bribed one of the stagehands with money, instructing him to damage the spotlight's wire."

The news shook Hathaway. How could it be Kathleen?!

"There must be a mistake. Kathleen couldn't possibly have done such a thing. As daring as she is, she wouldn't actually dare hurt anyone."

"Is that so? Why does my memory tell me that this isn't her first instance at a murder attempt, though?" After taking an aloof gander at Hathaway, Nicholas shifted his gaze to his subordinate. "Do you have proof?"

"Yes, boss." The subordinate nodded and presented the definitive piece of evidence; it was a video recording of Kathleen bribing the stagehand.

"I'll give you a million for busting the spotlight," said Kathleen wickedly to the stagehand in the recording.

Hathaway turned grimmer by the second, and she was so livid that her hands trembled involuntarily. "How… How dare she do such a thing?!" she said through gnashed teeth while glaring daggers at the young woman in the recording.

She couldn't even face Tessa anymore at this point, feeling ashamed.

"I'll definitely give you a justifiable answer to this." Hathaway strode out after saying so.

Tessa's icy countenance didn't look any better as she looked in the direction her mentor had left before turning to Nicholas. "I'll make a trip over as well."

Nicholas didn't stop her and even ordered his subordinate, "Follow her and keep her safe."

The subordinate obliged with a nod before escorting Tessa out of the hospital.

Very quickly, Hathaway and Tessa arrived at the hotel the orchestra was staying at.

While Hathaway entered the elevator sternly, Kathleen lay on a chaise lounge by the pool while swirling a glass of red wine in her hand before taking a sip. The young woman looked super relaxed, having no clue that her misdeed had already come to light.

Well, it was within reason that she was in a good mood; despite failing to harm Tessa, her beloved got hurt instead, and she bet that b\*tch wouldn't be able to focus on rehearsals now

Anyhow, this was the result she wanted.

Once Tessa failed to focus on rehearsals, she'd create some problems on the day of the concert and ruin that b\*tch's performance... She would like to see who else in the orchestra would continue to befriend this jinx!

Chapter 772 Pay The Price

Hathaway was livid with rage when she found Kathleen.

She never imagined that her daughter could still enjoy herself without a sense of guilt after what she had done.

"Come back to the room immediately!" Hathaway left after saying so.

Meanwhile, Kathleen looked at her mother's raging figure with a sense of foreboding, feeling somewhat uneasy.

Even so, she still followed Hathaway.

However, as soon she stepped through the door, a slap landed on her face before she had a chance to say anything.

Kathleen gawked at her mother as she held her stinging cheek, dumbstruck by the slap. "Why did you slap me?!"

"You still have the audacity to ask me why?! You dare tell me you don't know what you've done wrong?!" Hathaway glared at Kathleen, who decided to play dumb as a glimmer flashed across her eyes. "What have I done to make you so angry?!" uttered Kathleen aggrievedly.

Disappointment filled Hathaway when she saw that Kathleen wouldn't admit her misdeed. "Was the spotlight not your doing?"

Kathleen's heart skipped a beat upon hearing so, and she couldn't avow this no matter what. "What proof do you have to accuse me of that? Does all of Tessa's

accidents have to do with me? How can you be so protective of that woman, Mom? Have you forgotten who your real daughter is!?"

Hathaway, on the other hand, was beyond heartbroken seeing that Kathleen was impenitent.

Just then, Tessa showed up at the door with the subordinate from earlier.

"Are you still going to continue denying what you've done?" She glared at Kathleen, thinking she had never seen anyone as shameless as that woman.

Tessa's sudden appearance surprised Kathleen, but she managed to calm down in two shakes and retorted, "Why shouldn't I deny it? What evidence do you have to prove it has anything to do with me?"

Tessa bore into Kathleen and took her phone out to play the recording she copied from the subordinate. "I'll give you a million if for busting the spotlight."

Kathleen's face fell upon hearing her voice, shocked that they could get a definitive piece of evidence of her misdeed.

Meanwhile, Tessa approached Kathleen with a fixed gaze, taking one step at a time. "Well, what do you have to say for yourself now?"

"Stay back!" Kathleen retreated with guilt.

Of course, Tessa wasn't going to do as Kathleen wished and instead continued moving closer to her with intimidation. "I can overlook all the things you've done to me in the past for your mother's sake, seeing that they were all harmless. However, I really didn't think you'd hate me to this degree!"

Hathaway was conscience-stricken at this point, so she didn't stop Tessa, who was now standing two steps away from Kathleen.

"I've always tried to avoid clashing with you since joining the orchestra." Tessa bore into Kathleen with an icy gaze. "Yet, you harm me time and again."

Kathleen's face was bloodless at this point. No one knew if it was from fear or guilt, but even so, Tessa wasn't going to spare her.

She suddenly raised her voice and questioned, "Are you going to still deny your misdeeds when it has already come to this?"

Kathleen sneered as she locked eyes with Tessa, having regained her senses. "You want me to admit my faults? Dream on!"

Lo and behold, Tessa slapped her as soon as she finished her words.

"How dare you slap me?" Kathleen held her cheek in shock.

"This slap is for the injury you caused my husband!" Tessa wasn't intimidated by Kathleen's venomous glare. "I can overlook all the times you tried to harm me, but I won't forgive you this time when human life is involved. If you're still indignant, talk to the police!"

At that, the police came through the door and took Kathleen away, leaving only Tessa and Hathaway in the room.

It was evident that Hathaway was reluctant to see her daughter be taken away by the police as she looked at the door.

She looked hesitantly at Tessa a few times but ultimately said nothing.

### Chapter 773 Bring In Outside Help

It didn't go unnoticed by Tessa, and she took the initiative to say, "I'm sorry, Miss Hathaway. I've already been very tolerant of Kathleen's behavior, but what she did has begun to threaten my life. I cannot ignore it anymore..."

"I know." Hathaway still knew her right from wrong. "Kathleen brought it upon herself."

All this while, Tessa had been overlooking Kathleen's belligerence because of her. But this time, human life was on the line, so she could understand why Tessa did what she had just done.

"It's my fault for not teaching Kathleen right." Hathaway sighed. Her originally straight back had now curved significantly, looking like she had aged in a heartbeat.

Meanwhile, Tessa pursed her lips, unsure of how to comfort her mentor.

In the end, it was Hathaway who waved her hand and asked Tessa to leave.

When Tessa returned to the hospital in high spirits, she related what happened after they left to Nicholas even though he didn't ask about it. Meanwhile, he kept his eyes on her. "I've called the police and let them deal with this matter. Kathleen's now with them."

"You did the right thing. She should be punished for the misdeeds she has committed." Nicholas nodded in agreement as he implicitly comforted Tessa, for he knew his beloved was benign. No doubt she felt terrible about making this kind of decision

In reality, it was as Nicholas thought—Tessa was indeed worried.

After all, Hathaway was really nice to her, yet she handed Kathleen, Hathaway's only daughter, to the police.

"Do you suppose I'll be putting Miss Hathaway in a difficult position with what I've done? I mean, the concert is just around the corner, and now this has happened to Kathleen. What is Miss Hathaway going to do about Group One's performance?" Tessa hadn't said so because she was thinking of forgiving Kathleen. She was just purely worried for her mentor.

"The one at fault is Kathleen, not you." Nicholas held her hand and comforted her. He then added, "You've already compromised many times for Hathaway. However, Kathleen never once considered her mother's position and thought of you as a pain in her neck. Who knows what else will happen if you keep tolerating her behavior? We should stop her now before she really does anything irreversible. That way, both you and your mentor will be fine."

Tessa agreed that she had done the right thing, and she didn't regret doing this to Kathleen at all, for that woman was why Nicholas was now in the hospital. Her heart wrenched every time she recalled Nicholas lying unconsciously in her arms.

Meanwhile, talks of Kathleen being taken away by police spread amongst the orchestra.

"What's going on? Why is Kathleen being taken away when the concert is just around the corner?"

"What's going to happen to Group One's performance?"

"Will this affect the show time?"

"Probably."

"Sh\*t, what exactly is going on? Has someone talked to Miss Hathaway about this?"

"I'm not sure, but I can ask someone from Group One."

The Group Two members were buzzing about this, and some even went as far as asking Group One members for details.

Some Group One members did indeed know about Kathleen's issue. However, they dared not speak openly about it.

After all, if this got out of hand, Kathleen's future would be ruined, and Hathaway surely wouldn't spare them.

That evening, Group One's conductor went straight to Hathaway as they were worried about the performance.

"Miss Hathaway, what will we do about Group One's performance when we don't have our lead violinist? The concert is just around the corner." He was aware of what Kathleen had done, and he also knew that Kathleen wouldn't be let out so easily. As such, he was apprehensive of Group One's performance and even more livid that Kathleen had gotten them into this situation.

Hathaway was also worried about the concert. "At most, we'll bring in outside help."

While speaking, she already had someone in mind.

Scott didn't have any performances lately, so Hathaway went straight to him.

"You want me to help? Sure, I'll be there by tomorrow."

"Thank you."

Chapter 774 Rorion, the Ex-husband

Hathaway ended the call gratefully.

. . .

Scott took the first flight to Yvetlava the next day and heard about what Kathleen did as soon as he arrived at the hotel. For a moment, he wasn't sure what to say about it.

Meanwhile, an unexpected guest came to Hathaway's room.

"What are you doing here?" Hathaway looked at the man behind the door, who was clearly not welcomed.

He was a typical Viennese man who looked to be around forty years old, and his suit made him look gentlemanly. In fact, he was Kathleen's father and Hathaway's ex-husband, Rorion.

"What do you think I'm doing here? I left Kathleen in your hands, but you just sat back and let the police take her away! What kind of mother does that?!" Rorion, who was frothing at his mouth, shoved Hathaway into the room, causing her to stumble a couple of steps before she managed to stable herself.

"Since you've heard about this, then you should know Kathleen brought it upon herself." She looked expressionlessly at the man in her room. "You're not welcomed here. Get out."

"Do you think I'd have come to find you if it weren't for Kathleen? You want me to leave? Fine. Tell your student to release Kathleen."

"Impossible!" Hathaway refused without a second thought.

She wasn't shameless enough to beg Tessa to forgive Kathleen when her daughter had done Tessa so much harm.

"Looks like Kathleen wasn't wrong when she said you think nothing of her as your daughter anymore." Rorion snorted disdainfully and snapped, "I haven't come here to discuss. Instead, I'm ordering you to bail Kathleen this instance."

"Kathleen should be punished for the damage she has done." Hathaway wasn't yielding. "I won't ask Tessa to forgive Kathleen."

"Hathaway!" Rorion was beside himself with rage at this point, and very quickly, the situation escalated into a heated argument.

Tessa, on the other hand, had no idea that had happened while she was caring for Nicholas in the hospital, where she continued to stay for another two days since Kathleen was taken away.

Nicholas recovered quite well, and his body showed no adverse reactions. Hence, they were given the green light to leave the following day.

Finally, Tessa could return to rehearsals with an eased mind.

"Morning, Miss Hathaway," she greeted with a smile when she saw Hathaway coming in her direction. Subsequently, she noticed that Hathaway's face seemed to be injured. "Miss Hathaway, your face..." she asked with surprise.

"I'm fine. How's your husband?" Hathaway changed the topic, not wanting to talk about her injury.

"He has already been discharged and is now resting at home."

"That's good to hear. I'll let you get to your rehearsal." With that, Hathaway left.

Just as Tessa was about to walk away, Mona popped out from the side. "Tessa, you're back."

"Mona, do you know anything about the injury on Miss Hathaway's face?" asked Tessa after a nod when she thought about Hathaway's injury.

Mona leaned close to Tessa and whispered what had happened in the orchestra for the past two days. "Her ex-husband belabored her. I heard it's because Kathleen was taken away."

Tessa frowned in response, but before she could say anything, Mona warned, "You'd better be careful wherever you go lately. You don't want to mess with Miss Hathway's ex-husband. I won't be surprised if he gives you any trouble because of Kathleen."

Tessa turned grim upon hearing Mona's words. What kind of man hits a woman? Also, Kathleen has herself to blame for her current situation!

"Is Miss Hathaway not going to call the police on him?"

"This is considered a domestic dispute, so the police can't do much about it either." Knowing what Tessa was worried about, Mona reassured her by saying, "Don't worry, I'm sure Miss Hathaway knows what to do, and you shouldn't put too much thought into this either. Either way, this has nothing to do with you. Our focus now is on the rehearsal."

Tessa thought Mona was right, so she put all the distracting thoughts aside and focused on rehearsing with her teammates.

## Chapter 775 Kathleen's Release

In the afternoon, Tessa and Mona went to the canteen to have their lunch when they met Scott unexpectedly. "Mr. Brooks? Why are you here?" Tessa looked at him in surprise.

Scott didn't plan to hide from them and briefly explained the situation, "Kathleen couldn't make it to the performance, so Miss Hathaway asked me to take her place."

He then continued in worry, "I heard from Miss Hathaway about what happened that day. I can't believe that Kathleen would do such a thing. Luckily, you're fine."

"Yeah, thank God my husband arrived on time, or I really don't know what would've happened." There was still fear on Tessa's face when she talked about that day.

Seeing that, he felt bad for her. He didn't want her to recall that event anymore, so he quickly changed the topic. "I went to the police station to meet Kathleen with Miss Hathaway the day before yesterday."

"How is she?" Tessa was curious, for she didn't care about this matter anymore ever since she sent Kathleen to the police station. She wanted to know whether Kathleen had realized her mistakes after such a long time.

Scott seemingly noticed what was on Tessa's mind and he replied in disappointment, "She's still the same, and she does not feel any remorse."

"Kathleen is already used to being arrogant, so it's impossible for her to admit to her mistake. Now that her patron is here, the chance is even slighter." Mona sighed

at the side as she felt that asking Kathleen to admit to her mistake was like nailing Jell-O to a tree.

Scott frowned too, for he knew a little about Kathleen's father. Although her father looked gentle on the outside, he was actually an insolent man who would cover up his family's wrongdoings no matter what. "Kathleen's father is really a powerful man who's not to be trifled with. If he rushed here to deal with this, I think Kathleen would be released in no time."

Hearing that, Tessa knitted her brows. She's getting released so soon? It looks like her father really is something. However, what made her disappointed the most was that Kathleen was being released when she hadn't even learned her lesson yet after doing such a terrible thing.

Mona was growing furious too. "It's so unfair. Kathleen nearly killed Tessa, but she's getting released so easily. She'll definitely become more brazen in the future."

Scott remained silent after that. He landed his gaze on Tessa, and he could tell that she was in a difficult position on this matter. However, at this moment, he didn't know what more he could say.

That night, Tessa kept thinking about Kathleen's release after rehearsals and went home gloomily.

When Nicholas noticed that his wife was unhappy, he pulled her to his side and asked with concern, "What's wrong? Did someone upset you?"

"Kathleen's father is in town. I heard that he's not someone to be trifled with and that he can help Kathleen out of prison very soon," she told him everything in a disgruntled tone. "I also heard that Kathleen didn't even realize her mistakes while she was inside. If she's being released now, it'll only fuel her arrogance."

Looking at her furious expression, he narrowed his eyes and said, "She wants to be released? It'll depend on her father's capability, then."

Surprisingly, Rorion had that capability. Since he was a businessman, he had powerful connections that made it quite easy for him to control the police. He had only been in Yvetlava for two days, yet he accrued enough money to pull his connections and save Kathleen. Meanwhile, the police also agreed to release her the next day.

However, he received bad news from his friend the next day. "The police have just informed me that they will not be releasing your daughter."

"Why is that so? Didn't we have a deal?" Rorion was exasperated, but it was understandable for him to be this furious since he had put in a lot of time and money for the past two days. If he couldn't save his daughter, all his efforts would go to waste.

Although the friend didn't like Rorion's tone, since he had been paid, he suppressed his anger and explained, "The police didn't tell me about the details either. They just told me that the people above suddenly have their eyes on this case and have ordered the rest to go by the book."

"The people above? Why is this case suddenly under their radar?"

Chapter 776 Is There No Other Way

Rorion was shocked.

Noticing that, the friend said coldly, "Well, it depends on who your daughter offended."

"It's just my ex-wife's student."

"In that case, you should find out whether your ex-wife's student has any powerful connections, or you can ask your ex-wife to figure it out."

Rorion was reluctant to meet Hathaway, for that would mean that he needed to pocket his pride and tell her that he couldn't save Kathleen by himself. Furthermore, he had said awful things and even laid his hands on her. If he went to her, she would definitely give him the long face, so they couldn't sit down together and discuss how to save their daughter.

While suppressing his anger, he asked, "Is there no other way?"

"Not from me. That's all I can think of. Perhaps you should find someone else." The friend was willing to help, but he was unable to. Thus, he hung up the phone right away after providing him with a few pieces of advice.

After the call was hung up, Rorion still had the phone in his hand with his brows snapped together. That friend was considered the most capable of all the people he knew. If he couldn't save Kathleen, finding others would be of no help either.

Do I really need to find Hathaway? Also, didn't Kathleen say that the woman doesn't have any connections? Is she hiding something from me?

. . .

Meanwhile, at the manor, Edward entered the study after knocking on the door. He rushed back from Brentwood two days ago when he knew that Nicholas was hurt.

Once he entered the room, he stood in the middle of the room respectfully and reported, "President Sawyer, what you said has been done. Just as you wish, Kathleen won't be released anytime soon."

"Good." Pleased, Nicholas nodded and instructed, "Keep an eye on this matter. I don't want to hear about Kathleen being released early after a few days."

"Sure," Edward answered affirmatively with a nod.

After that topic came to an end, Nicholas asked about the situation in Brentwood. "How's the company going?" he asked.

"Master Kieran is managing the company now, so everything is going quite well," Edward answered honestly, and he chose several big projects to report to him.

Nicholas nodded after hearing that. He wasn't really worried as he had confidence in his little brother too. Then, he continued, "What about Old Master Sawyer?"

"He's not very happy ever since he returned," answered Edward after hesitating momentarily.

When he noticed this, Nicholas said with a frown, "Don't falter. Just spit it."

When Edward heard that, he quickly told Nicholas what was bothering him. "While you've been away these days, Miss Muller has been keeping in constant contact with Old Master Sawyer. Do you need someone to impede them?"

Nicholas squinted his eyes after hearing that. He knew very well what Remus was trying to do, and he also knew that stopping him would only stir him up. "It's okay. Just let them do whatever they want."

Edward nodded and left the room after that.

. . .

In the end, Rorion still couldn't think of any other way and went to the theater to find Hathaway.

As soon as Hathaway saw him, she put on a long face. "Why are you here?"

"Do you think I'd be willing to be here if it's not for Kathleen?" While slashing her with his words, he shamelessly sat on her desk chair. "I've been looking for people to save Kathleen for the past two days, and she's supposed to be released today, but the police suddenly went back on their words. I can't think of any other way now, so I want you to find your connections and save Kathleen."

"I've already looked into my connections, but all my friends are not so capable of doing such things..." Hathaway was blaming herself too when they were talking about this. She was just a musician, so most of the people she knew were all in the music industry. Also, how could she have such powerful connections when she was not even in her own country?

Hearing that, Rorion put on a ghastly expression and couldn't help blaming her. "I already said that Kathleen won't succeed in the future with you, but you still fought with me for her custody. Look at how great you are right now, letting our daughter suffer in prison."

## Chapter 777 Definitely Not My Daughter's Fault

"I blame myself when Kathleen got caught too, Rorion. However, I don't think I did anything wrong in this matter. She should be punished for her wrongdoings. In fact, she'll really be ruined if you raise her!" Hathaway was provoked by her unreasonable ex-husband. Why does it not occur to him that Kathleen learned that arrogance from him?

Almost immediately, both of them started squaring up a fight about Kathleen's upbringing again.

During break time, Tessa, Mona, and the others came out to have a sip of water. While walking, they were discussing the rhythm, which was a little off just now. Out of the blue, they saw Hathaway and Rorion arguing when they passed by the office.

"I don't care whether you find that student of yours or use any other way. I just want Kathleen to be out now! Otherwise, I won't let your performance in Yvetlava proceed smoothly."

"You're going overboard, Rorion!" Hathaway didn't think that he could be so shameless as to use her orchestra performance to threaten her.

Rorion scoffed when he heard that. "Am I the one going overboard? Kathleen is suffering in prison now because of you, and you're saying that I'm going overboard? I'm telling you now—get her out even if you don't want to! Otherwise, don't blame me for laying my hands on you!" As he said that, he was ready to hit Hathaway.

Tessa and the other members winced as they saw that. She immediately dashed inside and shouted, "Stop it!"

Hathaway looked at Tessa and the other members, stunned. "Tessa, why are all of you here?"

"It's break time now. We came out for water," Tessa explained. At the same time, she was studying Rorion secretly and despised the man. Although he's dressed like a gentleman, he's such a terrible person who'll lay his hand on a woman!

Likewise, Rorion was looking at Tessa as well. From the conversation just now, he knew that this woman in front of him was the reason why his daughter was in prison. His face darkened at once upon thinking about this. "She's the protégé, eh? She's also the one that made Kathleen go to prison, right?"

When Hathaway heard that, she knew something was up in his mind, so she quickly blocked Tessa from his view and said coldly, "This thing has nothing to do with Tessa. Kathleen's the one who's at fault."

Rorion was enraged when he heard Hathaway standing on Tessa's side. "How can my daughter be at fault?! It's always other people's fault!" He glared at Hathaway and bellowed, "Do you still remember who's your daughter? This woman is the reason your daughter is in prison, you know!"

As she looked at the furious man pointing his finger at her, Tessa finally knew where Kathleen's arrogance came from. Not only was he arrogant, but he was also extremely unreasonable. Seeing such a man really broadened her mind.

At this moment, she came out of Hathaway's back and looked at Rorios coldly. "I agree that Kathleen is in prison because of me, but she deserves it. You can't blame anyone for that."

As soon as she said that, many of the members around her were surprised. After all, some of them still didn't know what exactly happened to Kathleen.

"Oh my gosh, Kathleen's in prison again."

"No wonder Group One members just kept quiet when we asked them about her. I wouldn't say anything either if I were them. It's so embarrassing."

"Kathleen definitely did something horrible, and that's why Tessa can't take it anymore."

The orchestra members were speculating about what had happened, but they were all on Tessa's side.

Rorion became provoked hearing that. "Shut up! My daughter will never be at fault!" He glared at all the members fiercely as though he was going to kill them with his ghastly gaze.

When they noticed his gaze, the other members were all frightened and stopped their discussion at once.

In the end, his evil gaze landed on Tessa. "Who are you to criticize my daughter?! In fact, why would she cause you any trouble if you didn't mess with her?!"

"Me? Messing with Kathleen?" Tessa was so enraged by his words that she started laughing.

## Chapter 778 You Asked For It

But before Tessa could say anything, Rorion's condescending tone resonated in her ears. "I order you to contact the police now and ask them to release Kathleen without charge! Or, you'll regret this for the rest of your life!"

"This matter has nothing to do with Tessa, Rorion. Stop pestering and being unreasonable! Otherwise, I'll call security!" Hathaway guarded Tessa with a worried expression, as she knew that when Rorion was a man of his word, he would definitely do something to Tessa.

However, Rorion totally ignored Hathaway and glared at Tessa with a devious gaze. "I'm asking you this one last time. Are you releasing Kathleen or not?"

Tessa was unperturbed by the threat coming from this unreasonable parent. Her face completely darkened, and she said toughly, "Kathleen should be punished for the crime she has committed. You can try to get me if you want to!"

The eyeball-to-eyeball situation between them was making the atmosphere tense at once.

Just then, Rorion narrowed his eyes and gritted his teeth. "You asked for this!" As soon as he said that, he grabbed his phone and called his bodyguard. Almost immediately, a few muscular bodyguards appeared in the office.

At once, fear took hold of the members' faces when they saw the sudden appearance of the bodyguards.

Hathaway's expression turned even more furious. "What are you trying to do, Rorion?!"

However, Rorion ignored her completely and ordered the bodyguards while pointing at Tessa, "Get her!"

"Yes, Sir," the bodyguards answered affirmatively with a nod and then walked closer to Tessa.

Hearing that, Hathaway had a change in her expression. She guarded Tessa and shouted, "Don't you dare come near us! Back off!"

But unfortunately, the bodyguards didn't listen to her at all.

On the other hand, Rorion was scoffing at the side. "This is what happens when you choose the hard way. Get her quickly!"

At this moment, Tessa felt a stream of fear rising up from inside.

Just as the bodyguards were a few steps away from her, something unexpected happened. The guards Nicholas sent to protect Tessa realized something was up and came in just in the nick of time. Their actions were neat and quick, defeating Rorion's bodyguard within seconds.

They guarded in front of Tessa and bellowed charismatically, "Don't you dare lay fingers on our mistress!" At once, everyone there was frozen by Tessa's guards.

Rorion scowled, as it was totally out of his expectation that there were people protecting her.

After Tessa was stunned for a moment, it came to her mind immediately that these two men were probably sent by Nicholas to protect her. At this thought, she heaved a sigh of relief and was touched. Thank God Nicholas had arranged bodyguards for me. Otherwise, I really don't know what I can do in this situation.

The atmosphere turned into a stalemate at once.

At this moment, Rorion's cold gaze landed on Tessa. "Don't think that I can't do anything with you even when there are people protecting you. Do you know how you'll end up if you mess with me?" He tried to use his status to threaten Tessa to comply.

However, Tessa wasn't terrified at all. Instead, she faced him and answered coldly, "I don't know, and I don't want to know."

Rorion was at a loss of words for a moment, and his gaze was turning more devious. "I'm telling you now. If you don't release Kathleen today, don't think that you can live peacefully here even when there are people protecting you."

When she heard his threat, her expression turned even colder. "I finally know why Kathleen has such a personality. Her enviousness and ruthlessness obviously came from you. Even now, she still doesn't realize her mistake!"

As she was saying, she paused for a moment on purpose and scoffed, "You want nothing to happen after she threatened a person? Don't you think that that's too naive?!"

Rorion turned blue in the face when he heard that, and he was enraged. However, Tessa didn't care about his killer gaze and continued, "I advise you to stop making a fuss here. Otherwise, it definitely won't end well for you too."

They glared at each other eye-to-eye, making the atmosphere tense once again.

Looking at Tessa, who had extremely no fear of him, he was completely provoked but he sitant at the same time.

She definitely has someone backing her, or else she wouldn't have the guts to challenge me in this way.

## Chapter 779 No Regrets

It made Rorion recall how the police suddenly had a change of heart which made him dispel his thoughts of doing things the hard way.

He shifted his gaze at Hathaway and scoffed, "So, this is the protégé you have under your wings?" The next second, he snorted and left.

The crowd was silent as they watched him disappear into the corridor. They then shifted their gaze at Hathaway, who looked awful. While Tessa looked at her, she felt bad for what had happened.

As she was about to say something, Hathaway spoke first.

"Alright, everyone should leave and attend your training." She waved to signal everyone to leave. The members hesitated but finally left soon after.

In the end, only Tessa remained since she planned to speak to Hathaway after everyone left. However, Scott called her out.

"Mr. Brooks, what's wrong?" Tessa thought that something had happened, seeing that he had summoned her.

As he looked at the girl's beautiful face, he advised, "I know what you want to say to Miss Hathaway, but I strongly feel that you should give her some alone time." He rushed over the moment he heard about the commotion at the orchestra. Initially, he was about to go to her rescue when he saw the bodyguards trying to harm her, but in the end, he was a step slower.

After hearing that, Tessa looked at the upset Hathaway, who was seated in the office with her back facing the door. Hmm... What should I do? I feel lost. She

knew Hathway was caught between her and Kathleen, which was hard for Hathaway.

However, even though Tessa had given in to Kathleen countless times before this, Kathleen didn't seem to have repented and even wanted to take Tessa's life. On top of that, she almost made Tessa lose someone dear to her. That was why even though Tessa felt bad for Hathaway, she never regretted her actions as Kathleen had gone overboard!

Looking at how silent Tessa was, Scott seemed to know what she was thinking from her gaze. "Don't overthink since it isn't your fault. The root cause is Kathleen's problematic attitude, and Miss Hathaway will understand since she's a reasonable person."

Hearing that, she nodded, but she was still worried. "Even so, Miss Hathaway would still be upset."

Scott let out a sigh as he was lost for words. As dwelling on the topic would not render any results, he tried to distract the young lady by saying, "You should head off for your practice. The most important thing right now is to focus on the performance."

Tessa nodded in agreement. When she was back in the practice room, she was silent throughout the rehearsal session. Noticing that, the others wanted to approach her to ask about what happened but changed their minds.

That night after rehearsal, Tessa went home with a heavy heart. Nicholas could tell that she was unhappy and pulled her into his arms before asking, "What happened? You seem upset."

"This morning, Kathleen's father caused a commotion at the orchestra, and we had an argument." She didn't try to hide the issue that happened during the day. She even revealed her thoughts to him. "Miss Hathaway has been taking good care of me, and it was because of her guidance that I could come to my current position in such a short period of time. But now... I really feel bad about it."

When he heard her thoughts, he understood how she felt. He raised his eyebrow and tried to probe into how she felt. "So you feel guilty for sending Katheleen to jail, and you planned to get her released?"

"No way! I never regretted my actions. She brought it all upon herself!" Tessa objected.

"There you go. If you didn't regret it, why would you feel guilty?" Nicholas chuckled.

She furrowed her brows after hearing those words. "Although I have no regrets, I still feel sorry for Miss Hathaway since Kathleen is her daughter. I'm worried that..."

Even though she didn't complete her sentence, he knew what was on her mind.

"Are you worried that Miss Hathaway would blame you? Think about it. If she really was irrational, she wouldn't have stood on your side since the beginning." Nicholas slowly explained, "Obviously, Miss Hathaway is a sensible person, so you shouldn't take it to heart. The most important thing right now is for you to focus on your performance and maintain a good mood."

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Tess nodded in agreement. "You're right. I shouldn't let this affect my mood."

Seeing that, Nicholas felt his expression unconsciously turning gentle. "That's right! You should be happy every day. Otherwise, your emotions will affect the baby in your womb. What if the baby is a little crybaby after he's born because he feels sad in the womb?"

She was amused and couldn't help but refute, "Since I didn't really cry, how would I give birth to a little crybaby?"

"If you're unhappy, the baby will feel sad, and babies cry when they are sad. Isn't that so?"

What Nicholas said was reasonable, so Tessa had no grounds to refute it.

She laughed. "That's a fallacy statement."

Raising his brows, he looked toward Gregory and asked, "Gregory, do you think what Daddy said is correct?"

"Daddy is right. Mommy, you should be happy so the baby won't feel sad."

Just then, Gregory came over to back his father's claims. As Tessa listened to their amusing conversation, she instantly felt more relaxed.

That moment, Gregory suddenly touched her tummy and coaxed, "Baby, do you see that Mommy is smiling? So you should be happy too."

It lifted her mood to see the adorable moment. "Gregory, You're just too adorable!" She hugged him and showered him with kisses which made him giggle.

The living room was instantly filled with laughter. Nicholas laughed as he looked at the pair's interaction. However, he hadn't forgotten what Tessa had just told him. He had his guard up against Rorion since he dared to bring his men over to the practice room and caused a scene there. His gaze darkened as he shot a look over to Edward, who instantly understood what he wanted since he had been serving Nicholas for many years. He nodded and left the manor.

Soon after, the butler walked over and reported, "Master Nicholas, Miss Tessa, dinner is ready." The family walked over to the dinner table and had dinner together.

After dinner, Tessa played with Gregory before leading him back to his room so that he could wash up and go to bed. An hour passed after she managed to coax him to sleep. By that time, Tessa was also sleepy and yawned as she strolled back to the main bedroom.

In the bedroom, Nicholas was seen sitting on the bed, preparing to change his bandage after he'd showered. Tessa, who just got into the room, saw this and immediately walked over to help him.

"Didn't I ask you to wait for me to apply the medicine for you?" She pretended to be angry as she stared at him.

"I know that you've had a long day, so I don't want to startle you since my wound is unsightly." He let out an awkward laugh. Because his wound was recovering, it looked a little hideous, and there was even a large bruise on the side.

Tessa looked at the scabbed wound on his shoulder and muttered, "I'm not afraid." After speaking, she squeezed out some ointment on her hand and then gently applied it to his wound. She wasn't afraid of the overlapped scars, but on the contrary, her heart ached as she looked at them.

"We're not sure whether it's going to leave a scar."

He chuckled as he listened to Tessa's worries. "It's okay to have a scar if it's meaningful. After all, it signifies my heroic act in protecting my woman, no?"

The way he looked at her was full of love. He really didn't mind if it left a scar since he was used to getting injured when he was in the forces. It's not like I care about having scars. Even though he was indifferent, Tessa couldn't stand to see him get hurt.

"I don't want such significance."

Once she was done applying the ointment, she looked at him solemnly and said, "I don't mind the events that happened in the past, but I hope you can promise me that you won't let yourself get hurt in the future, as it worries me. Moreover, you were hurt on the same spot last time, so we're not sure whether there'll be any side effects."

"Don't worry. I'll be fine."