Chapter 801 Signs of a New Life

Looking at Tessa's beautiful face without any makeup on, there was a unique scent in the air that made his heart skip a beat.

All of a sudden, he reached out and hugged her.

Tessa only managed to gasp before her lips were sealed by Nicholas'.

The romantic scene ended there as both parties did not do anything else.

. . .

The next day, they went to the hospital after the family of three had their breakfast.

Getting out of the car, they were about to enter the hospital when Stefania's voice came from behind them.

"Hello, Nicholas and Miss Reinhart."

"Grandma. Why are you here? Are you sick?"

Gregory, who was surprised to see Stefania here, ran over to her.

Tessa also looked worryingly at her. "Are you alright, Mom?"

Even though Nicholas did not say anything, he had fixed his gaze onto his mother.

Seeing this, Stefania knew that although they had misunderstood her, she was still very moved deep inside.

"I'm fine. I came to the hospital for you all."

"Us?" Tessa grew even more confused by this.

Stefania then explained, "Originally, I wanted to visit Gregory, but I heard from Andrew that you came here for the ultrasound; that was why I followed you guys."

Turning around, she suddenly lectured Nicholas, "Since you're here with Miss Reinhart for the ultrasound, isn't it very inconvenient to bring Gregory along? Why didn't you call me for help, since I have nothing to do at home?"

Despite her explanation, Tessa and Nicholas knew that Stefania only wanted to see Gregory.

"It was our lack of consideration. Well, since you're already here, why don't you accompany us for the test?" Tessa extended this sudden invitation.

Naturally, Stefania accepted it.

It was then Gregory understood that his grandmother came over to see him, so he boasted, "Grandma, let me tell you something. When we came for the checkup last time, I even heard the heartbeat of the baby! It's so magical!"

"Really?"

Although Stefania was talking to Gregory, her eyes were looking at Tessa.

Instantly knowing what Stefania was thinking of, Tessa smiled subtly. "It really is magical. You can also experience it for yourself later."

Soon, they arrived at the office of the doctor.

After filling in all the information, the checkup began.

There were all sorts of tests such as ECG and blood samples being taken.

Noticing Tessa's blood was being drawn, Stefania frowned. "Why are they drawing so much blood? Do they collect this much every checkup?"

Tessa smiled even brighter after hearing her mother-in-law's words.

"It's fine, Mom. These are just normal procedures."

Hearing this, Stefania did not say anything more.

Finally, the test ended with the ultrasound showing that the baby was in a normal condition.

As for Stefania, she grew very excited after hearing the heartbeat of the baby.

After the tests, they exited the hospital with Stefania still baffled, especially because of the baby's heartbeat that made her feel so much closer to her future grandchildren; it rendered her a sense of wonder and fascination.

"Remember to take the supplements that I sent over daily. That way we can ensure to have a healthy child."

Before she left, she reminded Tessa concerningly, "Don't tire yourself out as well. Please take good care of yourself."

"I will." The daughter-in-law nodded.

Arriving home, Nicholas set Tessa on the couch to rest while Gregory went upstairs for classes.

Later that day, she received a call from Mona.

"Tessa, Miss Hathaway is back."

"She's back?" Tessa was a bit shocked as she asked, "Then, did she come alone or with someone?"

"She's alone. I didn't see Kathleen," reported Mona truthfully.

This made Tessa even more surprised. Is Miss Hathaway giving up on saving Kathleen?

Just as she was thinking about the possible scenarios, Mona's voice came from the phone again, "Tessa, when will you be joining us?"

"I should be returning in about two days."

Chapter 802 Love and Dreams

"I'll be waiting for your return."

Mona then talked about some ongoing affairs about the orchestra before hanging up.

Placing her phone down, Tessa sighed after thinking about the current state of the orchestra.

With Kathleen's position vacant, they need to look for another violinist.

Nicholas, who did not know all this, did overhear their conversation as he asked, "Are you going back?"

"Miss Hathaway's already back. Besides, you are almost healed by now, so it's time for me to leave." Tessa nodded with a tone of reluctance.

Even though he could not bear to let her go, he knew that his wife still had a dream to fulfill and he was not about to get in her way.

"When are you going to leave? I'll have Edward to help you book a flight ticket."

"Tomorrow, I guess. If I leave earlier, we can reunite quicker next time too."

Tessa, who gave out a time without hesitation, feared that she might find herself not wanting to leave if she continued to stay for a few more days.

The understanding man then gave Edward a call.

It was just then when Gregory's class ended as he heard his father calling someone.

"Are you leaving, Mommy?"

Dashing to his mother, he had a face full of sadness. "Mommy, I don't want you to leave."

Filled with reluctance, she replied, "Sweetheart, I can't bear to leave you either, but I—"

Yet, before she could finish her sentence, the sensible Gregory had said it for her.

"I know. Since you need to fulfill your dream, I will support you, Mommy."

Seeing how sensible her son made Tessa teary-eyed as she became more reluctant to depart.

Even though she wanted to stay with Gregory and Nicholas, logic still triumphed over love in the end.

. . .

Next day morning, they departed for the airport after breakfast.

Timothy also managed to make it to see her off.

In the boarding room, Gregory was bawling his eyes out.

Although he seemed as sensible as could be yesterday, he still felt very sad upon seeing his mother leave.

"Mommy, remember to take good care of yourself."

He reminded Tessa while sniffling, making her heart ache as she quickly hugged and comforted him, "Now, now, Gregory. I'll come back to see you whenever I

have the time. If you really miss me, you can ask Daddy to bring you to visit me too."

It was only after coaxing him for a while did the boy calm down.

She handed him over to Nicholas before stating, "When I'm gone, remember to apply the medicine on time and don't overwork yourself. Also, eat your meals regularly. I will let Timothy watch over you."

It was the second day when she reached Vienna.

Getting off the airplane, Tessa saw that the chauffeur of their family was already waiting outside the airport.

She then sent a text message stating that she had safely arrived to Nicholas and Timothy after she entered the car.

After arranging everything and taking a breather, she went to the orchestra in the afternoon.

Upon arrival, she saw a busy Hathaway that looked rather haggard and tired.

She also saw Tessa as her gaze was filled with mixed emotions.

"You're back, I see."

"I am." Tessa nodded.

Looking not all too happy, Hathaway stated bluntly, "Well, the violin's not going to play itself. Go get started."

She ignored Tessa after that, for a distant aura emanated from her.

Naturally, Tessa felt that she was a lot colder to her as she felt upset inside.

It was then a few people who were normally in Kathleen's clique came over.

At the sight of Tessa, their gazes turned hostile.

"Someone sure is thick-skinned. They even have the cheek to come back after landing someone else's daughter into prison."

"Would she have become the first violinist of Group Two had she not been shameless?"

"If it were me, I would've quit a long time ago. After all, I have some dignity."

These insults darkened Tessa's expression as those people left after they were done calling names.

Chapter 803 Another Perspective

When Mona walked over, she happened to overhear them.

Seeing how upset Tessa was, she comforted her by saying, "You don't need to care about their opinions. After all, birds of a feather flock together. Their moral compass has been twisted a long time ago since they always hang out with Kathleen. Besides, it was Kathleen's fault."

Tessa, who heard all this, pursed her lips as her emotions were no doubt perturbed.

When she went back at night, she was still downtrodden, for she did not eat much of her dinner.

Noticing this, the butler was worried for her, so Kylie secretly told Nicholas about this.

"Master Nicholas, Madam Tessa seemed to be quite upset after returning from the orchestra practice tonight. She barely touched her food."

"I got it. Just prepare some supper for her later this evening."

Hanging up, Nicholas then called Tessa.

"What are you doing right now?"

"I just ate. I'm resting now." Tessa smiled at the handsome man on her screen.

If only the smile was a tiny bit more genuine.

Seeing through this at a glance, Nicholas asked purposefully, "You don't seem to be in a good mood. Did something happen?"

"Nothing. I just felt that some things have changed upon my return this time."

Even though she did not state it clearly, he could still somewhat guess what had happened.

Looking at his upset wife, he coaxed her and said, "You don't need to overthink this. Screw what they said; the incident has nothing to do with you."

"Yes, I know. But, Miss Hathaway, she..." Tessa then became even sadder upon recalling how cold Hathaway was toward her.

Feeling his heart pang at the sight of Tessa, he stated, "You don't need to mind what she thinks. Understand that some people will still pity those deserving of punishment in this world. Of course, they are not at fault for pitying them. After all, it is a good thing if the sinner could turn over a new leaf, but..."

He paused intentionally to observe her expression before continuing, "But, we know that Kathleen isn't one to change. So, you shouldn't be blaming yourself."

He does make great sense...

After all, she did give Kathleen a few chances to change and reflect upon her own actions. Yet, not only did she not do that, she tried to harm her time after time.

This thought made Tessa feel a bit better about herself.

Even though she was comforted by his words, the pressure only became heavier when she went to the orchestra again as she felt a change of attitude from everyone around.

Since most of them were from the same group, losing Kathleen meant that Group One was deprived of a main performer, so they were forced to halt their performances for the time being.

It was because of this that more people became more opinionated of Tessa gradually.

Even so, she did not care about this, for she only became more hardworking at practice.

Seeing her friend work herself like this, Mona grew to be concerned for her.

When practice ended one day, Mona quickly called out to her, "Tessa, wait up."

"Yes?"

"Let me treat you at my cousin's place today. I've already reserved a table for us."

Tessa was a bit shocked at the sudden invitation. "Why are you suddenly treating me?"

"Seeing how hard you've been practicing these few days, I wanna treat you and allow you to let loose a little. Besides, I had tons of free meals at your place previously. So, it's time for me to return the favor. Let's go, my cousin is waiting for us."

She then held Tessa's arm and dragged her along.

To that, Tessa could only send a message to Nicholas before heading to the restaurant.

After arriving at the place, Wilbur personally guided them to their table.

He had heard about what happened to Tessa as he sat down and said, "It's always wise to filter what's good for us and what's not; if it isn't your weight to carry, then

don't. Those people who are badmouthing you are just jealous of your abilities at the end of the day."

"I know. I haven't been upset over what they said. All I want is to improve my skills."

In reality, Tessa really did not mind what they said. Even though she was affected with how Hathaway treated her lately, she knew she had no reasons to be guilty about anything as it was not her fault, just like what Nicholas had said.

Chapter 804 The Swaying Opinions

Seeing how her close friend was really unbothered by all this, Mona breathed a sigh of relief and switched subjects.

After the meal, Wilbur noticed that Tessa seemed to be in a good mood, so he suggested, "Since you're here, how about playing a song on stage?"

Thinking that she had not been here for a long time, Tessa nodded before heading onstage with her violin.

A short while after, a pleasing tune came from her violin, entrancing the customers.

Then, the performance ended with thunderous applause from all sides.

Some of them were frequent patronizers and knew who Tessa was.

"Miss Reinhart, you're finally playing again."

"That's right. We've missed the sound of your violin terribly during the time you weren't here."

"I feel like your technique has been further refined, Miss Reinhart! You really are talented. You need to come more often in the future."

All the praises made Tessa feel like a surge of energy had been injected into her body as all the doubts in her mind were dispelled.

"Thank you for your support, everybody."

Smiling brightly, she then bowed and exited the stage.

Her mood was much improved upon reaching home, for she had come to a conclusion.

No matter how others doubted her, she would walk on her own path unceasingly. I will work harder and make myself stronger.

Nicholas' call came just then, prompting him to be surprised seeing his wife full of energy.

"Seems like you had a fun time with Mona this evening."

"It was quite nice. We went to the restaurant today and I even played a song on stage. A lot of people said that I have improved a lot," Tessa shared her joyful evening.

After hearing this, Nicholas' worries had significantly lessened.

For the last couple of days, he was concerned for her since she had always looked so unhappy lately.

Now that she was bearing a child, he did not wish that she would experience such a constant mood swing as that would affect the baby too.

In the ensuing days, Tessa kept up her rigorous practice, which was witnessed by everyone.

Thereafter, the performance she pulled off at a recent show extended her reputation even further as many magazines wanted to have an interview with her; they hoped to feature Tessa on the cover of their magazines.

One day, Hathaway called Tessa to her office.

"Did you ask for me, Miss Hathaway?"

"Have a seat."

After saying that, Hathaway went straight to the point, "What are your thoughts on all the magazines that want to interview you?"

"I'll act as per your instructions." Even though their relationship was not as good as before, Tessa still believed in her mentor a lot.

Knowing that fact, Hathaway had mixed emotions within her. She composed herself before analyzing, "I've taken a look at the magazines. I think there are some interviews that you can take. As for those that aren't worth it, just reject them."

"Understood." Tessa nodded. They then discussed the state of the orchestra for a short while before she left.

The rumors about her appearance in magazines soon spread after that.

At that time, many people did not understand why Hathaway would still take care of Tessa after what had happened, especially the ones from Group One.

It's obvious that Tessa is the culprit that landed Kathleen in jail, so what is Miss Hathaway thinking?

For some reason, someone created a discussion thread of this online and comments flooded the forum.

'In my opinion, Miss Hathaway acted in the correct way. Even though she might be a mother, she's also Tessa's mentor. Besides, it's not like Tessa did anything wrong. It was Kathleen who started everything, so why would she make it hard on her talented student?'

'I think the same way too. No matter what, she really is a magnanimous person. Not anyone can respond in the same way.'

'For me, I think it might be because Miss Hathaway doesn't want to destroy the reputation she built up with so much effort.'

As always, there were both good and ugly comments.

Yet, Kathleen's fans found themselves perplexed over this situation.

Chapter 805 Morals and Emotions

'Open-minded? Magnanimous? I think she's a failure as a mother!'

'Ever since Tessa appeared, Hathaway has been siding with her all the time. She even hit Kathleen because of this woman.'

'It was overboard of her to strike Kathleen. Does she even know who her real daughter is?'

With Kathleen's fans spreading such malicious comments, her reputation still got affected despite the majority believing that Hathaway was not in the wrong.

Also, the incident spread like wildfire online as Hathaway's assistant sent the forum over to her upon seeing it.

Sitting in the quiet office all alone, Hathaway sifted through the comments with trembling hands.

'As Kathleen's mother, not only did she not rack her brains on how to save her daughter, she's still trying to make Tessa famous. What a mother she is.'

'I would find it hard to accept if I had such a biased mother.'

'In the end, Kathleen only committed all these wrongdoings because she had such an unreliable mother.'

Reading the comments, Hathaway could not stop the tears falling.

How could these people say these things about me?

As my only daughter, Kathleen is suffering now, so how can I not feel pain inside?

Besides, Tessa only achieved what she had today with her own abilities and hardwork; Hathaway barely contributed to her success.

Facing this situation, Hathaway was at a loss as to what to do, for she felt very pained inside.

In actuality, she did think about giving Tessa the cold shoulder, but Kathleen was the one that was in the wrong.

If she had continued to side with her daughter, this would be unfair to Tessa.

With these thoughts in mind, Hathaway suddenly had a sense of fatigue washed all over her like one she had never felt before in her life.

Should I just... sell the orchestra off?

On the other hand, Tessa did not know any of this as she was busy with practice everyday.

The day had finally arrived where she promised the magazines for the interviews.

Seeing the journalists, Mona happily went up to Tessa and stated, "After your interviews today, your fame will only spread further. Please look after me from now on!"

"Don't worry, Here, I will let you hold onto my leg for reassurance." Tessa then jokingly extended her leg.

A short while after, a staff member from the magazine came in. "Miss Reinhart, can we take a photo of you?"

"Sure." Tessa nodded and went to the side to let the photographer do their job.

Surprisingly, Mona was also interviewed by them.

"Hello. I saw that you and Miss Reinhart were chatting quite happily. Are you two close friends?"

"We are."

"Then, would you be so kind as to tell us how Miss Reinhart is in the orchestra?"

"Happy to oblige. Normally, Tessa practises very vigorously, so she could perform better on stage. Besides, she even plays in a restaurant to further polish her techniques."

Mona proceeded to state words of praise and admiration. "Honestly, I feel like getting to know Tessa was the best thing I've ever done. Not only does she keep striving to new heights, she even helps me too. You could say that my playing improved because of her."

Besides Mona, the magazine also interviewed other members of Group Two, who all praised Tessa unanimously.

Even though Group One was very jealous that the other group was having such a good time, they did not slander Tessa on purpose. This was because they knew once they did that, they would be defaming the group's image and Hathaway would not let them off the hook once that happened.

Throughout the whole day, the magazines followed Tessa everywhere.

Not only did they record her practice, they even wanted her to bring them to the restaurant she normally played in.

To this, Tessa did not agree to it on the spot.

Chapter 806 An Extraordinary Relationship

"I would need to call the owner for permission first and foremost. Please excuse me."

"Ah yes, of course."

The magazine staff naturally understood that and gave Tessa time to make the call.

After answering the call, Wilbur accepted the suggestion upon knowing what Tessa was asking.

After all, this was the opportune moment for him to advertise his restaurant.

That same night, the group went to Wilbur's establishment.

There were regulars of the restaurants, who all praised Tessa without reservations.

. . .

The next day, all major magazines and tabloids in Vienna's headlines were occupied by Tessa and they were all filled with positive articles.

Besides that, the nickname 'Angel of Sound' was given to her, further boosting her fame.

Back at Brentwood, Nicholas, who knew the details of Tessa's daily schedule, was aware that she was interviewed yesterday.

Taking his phone out, he phoned someone. "Andrew, Tessa was interviewed yesterday, so keep an eye out for the magazines sold here. If there are any ones that mention her, buy them immediately. I want to be the first one to collect them."

"Understood, Master Nicholas. I'll get on it now." Andrew accepted the order.

After hanging up, Nicholas was still a bit paranoid, so he informed Edward of this too.

In a blink of an eye, it was the day of opening for Wanda's company. Guests filled the event with everyone having a good time. It was then the arrival of a guest that shocked the crowd.

"Old Master Sawyer is actually here. Looks like the rumors are true."

"I never thought that he would personally come. Who is this Wanda? She's actually able to successfully invite Old Master Sawyer."

"I'm not sure either. I only heard that they are a new player in the city and that they are relatively close to the Sawyer Family."

Everybody fell into heated discussion over this.

Seeing that Remus had arrived, Wanda greeted him immediately, "Welcome, Old Master Sawyer."

Tonight, she was wearing a custom-made blouse fashioned from a suit with a deep neckline. Paired with pants and high heels, this made her seem very dominating yet feminine at the same time.

At the sight of Wanda, Remus had taken a greater liking to her, thinking that this was how his grand-daughter-in-law should look.

As if she felt Remus' favorable impression upon herself, Wanda smiled even wider.

She then proactively led Remus around the venue, divulging her plans for the company's future.

This happened while the guests watched both of them walking around as they grew even more curious of Wanda's identity.

After all, they had never seen Remus act so friendly with anyone before.

Even though they had their doubts, this did not prevent them from greeting him.

Whenever this happened, Wanda would stand by his side silently while letting Remus speak. Naturally, there were some who asked about her.

Facing the curious crowd, Remus was only happy to state their relationship. "This is the granddaughter of my dearest friend. She came back to build a career here. Do treat her kindly."

Even though he said this in a very polite way, everyone could hear just how close they were.

Suddenly, a lot of people mistook his words, thinking that she might be his grand-daughter-in-law.

Otherwise, why would he be close to his friend's granddaughter?

The ones who guessed Remus' thoughts suddenly treated Wanda a lot warmer.

Of course, she could feel the misunderstanding, yet she let it slide as she thought that this was in her favor anyway.

When all the guests had almost all arrived, Nicholas was still nowhere to be seen.

Is Nicholas... not coming?

With this thought in mind, Wanda looked outside frequently, hoping to catch a glimpse of his silhouette.

Sadly, she did not see him anywhere, but her actions did catch Remus' eyes.

"Are you waiting for Nicholas?" Remus teased while smiling dotingly, "Don't worry. If he doesn't show up, I'll teach him a lesson on your behalf."

To that, Wanda blushed at his words. "Mr. Sawyer!" She stomped her foot lightly in embarrassment.

Chapter 807 A Fortunate Misfortune

Amused, Remus then laughed happily.

On the other hand, Nicholas was still working at the company at this hour.

He had completely forgotten about this until Edward knocked on the door and stated, "President Sawyer, it's almost 9.00PM now. Miss Muller's event has already started."

Frowning, Nicholas recalled there seemed to be such an event...

"Okay." Even though he said that, he did not show any signs of leaving. Obviously, he was stalling for time.

Edward, who noticed this, did not say anything further and left the office.

An hour passed by just like that...

After taking care of all his work, Nicholas was just about to leave when his phone rang, showing the caller to be from home.

"What's wrong?"

"Master Nicholas, Young Master Gregory has fallen sick."

Andrew's words darkened Nicholas' expression.

"Okay. I'm coming back right now."

Hanging up, he grabbed his keys and left straight away.

Back at the event...

After waiting all night long for Nicholas' appearance, Wanda's smile slowly froze up as she realized he might not be coming.

Seeing this, Remus said, "Perhaps something came up at the company. Why don't you give him a call?"

Naturally, she was happy to oblige. She then took her phone out and called him. It was but a beep when the call immediately connected.

"Are you still busy, Nicholas? The event's started already. When are you coming over?" Wanda asked expectantly, yet the person who picked up the call was not the man she wished to hear from.

Using a polite tone, Edward replied, "I do apologize, Miss Muller. Our Young Master has a fever, so the president won't be able to attend your event." With that, he hung up the phone.

Standing on the spot, Wanda had a sour look on her face.

Of course, she did not believe Edward's words and thought that Nicholas was merely finding an excuse.

When she headed back to the venue, Remus noticed that she did not seem to look too happy, so he frowned and asked, "Did Nicholas mention when he'll be coming over?"

"Nicholas said that Gregory has a fever, so he won't be coming." Wanda did not even bother to hide her disappointed tone.

Upon hearing this, Remus became unsurprisingly angry.

This was because he had the same thought as Wanda, thinking that Nicholas had come up with a random excuse to not come.

After the event ended later in the evening, Remus entered his car with a solemn expression and ordered, "Dynasty Gardens."

He kept this look all the way to Nicholas' villa.

Andrew, who was shocked to see Remus' arrival, quickly went upstairs to report to Nicholas.

"Master Nicholas, Old Master Sawyer is here."

Frowning, Nicholas had already guessed his intentions for coming here.

He was greeted by the sight of his angry father after heading downstairs, yet he still asked the obvious question, "Why are you here?"

"You tell me. I specifically wanted you to attend Wanda's event. Why didn't you?" Remus lectured Nicholas as soon as he saw him.

With a cold expression, Nicholas explained, "Gregory fell sick. I was taking care of him at home."

"Don't you use Gregory as an excuse. You think I don't know anything about him?" Remus did not believe Nicholas one bit.

As such, Nicholas became cold too as he replied harshly, "Why do you think I need to lie about a matter like this?"

Hearing this, Remus started to doubt himself.

On the other hand, Andrew understood what was happening and quickly spoke up for Nicholas, "Old Master Sawyer, Master Nicholas isn't lying. Young Master Gregory indeed has a fever. Please don't blame Master Nicholas for this."

Stunned, Remus could not hide his concern. "What happened? He was fine all along. Why did he fall sick?"

"The doctors said that he might have caught a cold."

"Isn't the heater on? How did Gregory still catch a cold? How have you all been taking care of the child?" Remus scolded them angrily.

Chapter 808 A Separated Mother and Son

Standing there, Andrew let Remus scold him freely as it was their fault that Gregory got sick.

Following that, Remus went upstairs to take a look at Gregory.

"Great-grandpa, you're here." The child smiled widely upon seeing him. Even so, he seemed quite weak.

This sight made Remus' heart pang. "Are you feeling unwell anywhere?"

"I'm just a bit dizzy. Other than that, I'm fine. You don't need to worry about me."

In Vienna, Tessa just woke up and freshened up.

When she ate her breakfast, she had the habit of contacting Nicholas through a video call, so she came to know about Gregory falling ill as well.

"How's Gregory? Did he go to the hospital?"

"Since he doesn't like hospitals, I summoned the family's doctor to the house. I fed him his medicine when I came back. He still looks quite spritely. He's sleeping after speaking with grandfather," Nicholas told Tessa roughly regarding his situation.

Although Tessa became more relieved, she was still worried. "Greg's always been healthy. Why did this happen all of a sudden?"

Besides, she could not accompany her son when he was sick and that made her feel very guilty.

Seeing Tessa's pained expression, Nicholas already knew what his wife was thinking.

"You don't need to worry too much; Gregory's fine. You should go to the orchestra now. I'll call you later when he gets better."

Left with no choice, she could only nod before hanging up and heading to the orchestra.

Even so, Gregory's condition was still on her mind throughout the whole day. It was almost daybreak when his fever finally went away.

Looking at the time, Nicholas knew that Tessa had returned from practice, so he gave her another call.

"Nicholas, how's Greg?" As soon as the video call connected, Tessa asked concerningly.

The man comforted her by assuring, "Gregory's fine now. You can rest assured."

"That's good to know."

Heaving a sigh of relief, Tessa remained guilty inside. "Under normal circumstances, I should be with the both of you right now. Yet, Gregory's sick and I can't do anything about it. This is very inappropriate of me."

"This has nothing to do with you. You don't have to blame yourself. Besides, if we're really talking about responsibility, it's my fault anyway for not taking proper care of Greg."

Nicholas continued, "What you need to do now is take good care of yourself and the baby inside your belly. Don't make me and your son worried."

To that, she nodded.

A while later, Gregory finally woke up. Although he was still feeling somewhat weak, his thoughts were clear. Nicholas then accompanied him for breakfast before bringing him his medicine.

Facing it with disdain, Gregory asked, "Daddy, I'm already fine, so can I not take the medicine?"

"No can do." Nicholas rejected him outright. Thinking that he might have been too harsh, he gently added, "If you take your medicine, I'll let you call Mommy."

After hearing that he could communicate with his mother, Gregory closed his eyes and took the medicine despite hating it. His face full of fear and disdain when doing so amused Nicholas greatly before he permitted him to call Tessa.

"Mommyyyyy!" Gregory held the phone while calling his mother out in a very whiny way.

Tessa, who saw Gregory, immediately asked, "You're awake, sweetheart. How are you feeling? Is there anywhere that still hurts?"

"I feel just fine. You don't need to worry at all, Mommy," stating that obediently, he said smugly, "Mommy, I was very brave earlier. I swallowed all those bitter medicines in one go."

"Really? You are the best, sweetheart." She praised her son smilingly while kissing him through the screen.

This made Gregory extremely happy.

Standing beside, Nicholas looked at them dotingly.

It was then Tessa reminded him, "Gregory, you need to take your medicine. That's the only way you can get well faster. Then, Mommy won't have to worry about you."

Chapter 809 A Horrifying Revelation

"I know. I'll be sure to stay obedient."

Nodding, Gregory looked very adorable.

Just as the family of three was chatting along happily, Andrew knocked and came in the room.

"Master Nicholas, Miss Muller is here. She heard that the Young Master was sick and is here to visit him."

Needless to say, Tessa also heard this. However, she believed in Nicholas, so she did not pry further.

After hearing Andrew's words, Nicholas frowned as impatience could be seen from his gaze. "Alright."

Saying that, he then looked at Tessa through the phone and said gently, "That'll be it for today. Rest up earlier."

"I know. You take care of yourself and Gregory." Tessa then hung up.

Keeping his phone away, Nicholas told Gregory to rest before heading to the living room downstairs.

In the living room, Wanda was sitting formally on the couch, covered with the latest winter designer clothing from head to toe.

This look was a stark contrast with the career-driven individual she displayed yesterday at the event, which made her look very feminine. Her eyes then glimmered upon hearing footsteps behind her.

"Hi, Nicholas." She turned around and smiled at the man walking toward her, for she was unable to hide the admiration for him in her gaze.

Nodding subtly, Nicholas had a very distant aura about him.

The response stiffened her smile.

Fortunately, she managed to put up a facade in time as she kept up her smile and asked, "I heard that Gregory fell sick. Is he ok?"

"You sure know a lot, Miss Muller."

He glanced coldly at her as he spoke very sarcastically.

Hearing this, Wanda felt her heart skip a beat. However, she maintained her image and explained, "I think you've misunderstood me, Nicholas. I didn't snoop around to know that. I heard it from Old Master Sawyer; that was why I decided to come visit Gregory."

Peering at her, Nicholas did not believe one word of her statement. It was just that he did not bother to expose her.

Yet, Wanda knew nothing about what he was thinking.

Seeing that he had no intention of adding anything, she asked, "Is Gregory awake? Can I meet him?"

"He's still asleep, so no." Nicholas' cold rejection left her disappointed.

In the end, she had no choice but to leave.

Exiting the main gate, she turned back to look at the villa with a hint of unrest inside.

She kept thinking that Nicholas was overly cold to her. Don't tell me that he knows something is up?

. . .

In Vienna, Tessa practiced for a short while after the call before returning to her room to rest.

The next morning, she had a simple breakfast and went to the orchestra.

Arriving there, Tessa greeted everyone as usual.

"Good morning."

"Morning," the other members replied half-heartedly with weird looks.

Noticing this, Tessa looked down to check her clothing, thinking that there might be something wrong with her attire.

Yet, she looked everywhere and found nothing wrong with her outfit today.

Just as she was about to ask someone what was going on, Mona ran up to her. "Tessa, you're finally here. It's terrible."

"What happened?" Tessa was befuddled.

Closing in, Mona whispered, "Kathleen is dead!"

"What?!" Horrified, Tessa looked at Mona in disbelief.

"It's true. Also, Miss Hathaway was sent to the emergency ward today."

Mona then explained in a hush, "I heard that Kathleen committed the unthinkable inside her jail cell. As for her body, it has been sent back to her homeland."

After hearing Mona's words, Tessa felt her heart sink as her face turned pale due to how sudden everything was.

Why would Kathleen... commit suicide?

Tessa pursed her lips and her emotions were in a flurry.

Sensing her mood, Mona tried to persuade her, "Don't you overthink this. It's not your fault..."

Chapter 810 The Real Victim

Speechless, Tessa did not know how to react to all this.

Mona, who could understand what she was going through, changed the subject and said, "Regardless of the reason why Kathleen did what she did, Miss Hathaway is more important for now. Let's go visit her at the hospital."

One could only imagine the pain when a mother lost her child.

Nodding, they went to the hospital.

In the hospital, there were tons of people who came to visit Hathaway as they stood outside the ward.

"Is Miss Hathaway fine?" Mona and Tessa arrived and immediately asked Doris how Hathaway was doing.

Yet, before she could reply, the members from Group One insulted Tessa.

"Tessa Reinhart, how dare you show up here!"

"Kathleen was driven to death by you! How sick can you get!"

"You really are a jinx! From the day you appear in the group, we haven't had a peaceful day go by!"

The vicious comments made Tessa's face pale.

"It wasn't me who did that. I didn't." She tried to explain, but they did not listen at all.

"If it wasn't for you latching onto the incident, would Kathleen have committed suicide?"

"It's just a minor injury. It's not as if someone died. Did you have to be that ruthless? I bet you must be feeling all high and mighty now that Kathleen is dead and there's no one else to block your way to the top in the orchestra anymore!"

"Not only did you force her to her death, you even agitated Miss Hathaway! Tessa, what are you planning? Are you trying to drive her head to her grave too?"

"Enough! Shut up, all of you!" Seeing that they were getting out of hand, the assistant scolded them harshly.

Thankfully, she was one logical individual and knew that this incident was not Tessa's fault.

"When Miss Hathway received the news about Kathleen, she was in a very agitated state before she passed out. She still isn't awake yet, so you should just... head back first." She looked at Tessa and told her about what happened.

Yet, Tessa did not want to leave just like that, for she was very worried about her mentor.

"It's fine. I can wait until she wakes up."

"You should still head back first. I think that even when Miss Hathaway wakes up, she... might not want to see you," the assistant tried persuading her.

Unwilling, Tessa shook her head. "It's okay if I stay out of her ward, but I will wait here until she wakes up. It's by doing so that I can rest my heart."

"Miss Blanchett, please let us wait here," Mona pitched in.

Since they were being so sincere, Doris did not oppose them.

"Okay. You wait here, then. However, if Miss Hathaway doesn't want to see the both of you, please don't try to go in so as to avoid agitating her."

"Understood." Tessa nodded.

The members of Group One were sour upon seeing this.

"She really is shameless. After forcing someone's daughter to their death, she's trying to act like a saint here. Does she think that she can lessen her sins like that?"

"If it were me, I would have left a long time ago."

"And to think how kindly Miss Hathaway treats her usually. No one thought that she would stab her in the back like this."

Mona, who heard all this, decided to stand up for her friend. "Have you all had enough? Kathleen's death isn't Tessa's fault at all. It was her that committed a crime in the first place. Tessa only made sure she got the punishment she deserved. I think you all forgot what actually happened back then. Need I remind you what Kathleen did? If not for Tessa's husband arriving in time, the one who would be dead by now might be Tessa and the baby inside her belly!"

Her words rendered those people incapable of rebutting as everyone fell silent.

Suddenly, the atmosphere in the hallway became heavy.

Tessa, on the other hand, was also a mess inside. How should I...

The silent atmosphere was interrupted by a piercing ringtone reverberating in the hallway.

It was from Tessa's phone, showing that Nicholas was calling her through video.

"What's wrong?"

Nicholas looked at his wife through the screen and asked concerningly, "Did something happen? You don't look all that happy."