Chapter 821 Nicholas' Endeavors

'Even if Kathleen has done something wrong, she's already sentenced to imprisonment for punishment! Why is Tessa still not letting her off and resorting to such lengths?'

While the netizens were rebuking Tessa for crossing the line, Kathleen's fans were more aggressive with their words due to their deep hatred for Tessa.

'Tessa Reinhart, you b*tch! How could you do that to Kathleen? Go to hell!'

'Why did you do that when Hathaway is your teacher? Does someone like you even have the rights to be a violinist?'

'Tessa Reinhart, get out of the music biz and leave Vienna! We don't welcome you here!'

The Internet went berserk because of the inundated comments.

Edward soon took notice of the situation on the net since he had been paying heed to Kathleen's incident. Hastily, he reported it to Nicholas, "President Sawyer, things are going bad. There are articles about Miss Tessa leaving Hathaway Philharmonic and about Kathleen's death. They even blame Miss Tessa for Kathleen's incident! The Internet is flooded with negative news of Miss Tessa."

Nicholas surfed the Internet to take a look upon hearing that. As one could easily expect, his face turned grim the moment he read the destructive comments, especially when some of them were cursing Tessa to death. The ire in him was flaring vigorously.

How dare they!

"Do whatever it takes to take down these articles. I don't want Tessa to see any of these and I don't wish to hear any of it spread to the country. Got it?" ordered Nicholas solemnly as he exuded a formidable aura around him.

Just how upset will she be if she reads those comments?

Edward dared not delay a single moment and left to fulfill his task in great haste. When afternoon came, he returned to inform Nicholas that it had been settled. In fact, that was the truth.

Currently, the trending taglines on social media were focusing on Kathleen's funeral, which would be held soon. Netizens and her fans were mourning her death.

'Rest in peace, Kathleen.'

However, Tessa had no clue about what had transpired; although she had gotten over the matter, it still affected her mood. As such, she did not have the energy to take notice of the rage on the net.

. . .

Next morning, Nicholas made a sudden announcement during breakfast. "I've asked Edward to book the plane tickets. We'll go to the airport right after our breakfast."

Tessa was stunned for a moment, but she kept quiet because she thought they were going to return to the country. Before they boarded the plane, she turned around to look at the city with heavy hearts. It was the place she lived for a few months; not only did it watch her grow from an unobtrusive nobody to a world famous violinist, it also bore every chapter of her progress in life.

It was not until she boarded the plane that she found out that Nicholas was not bringing her back to the country. They were heading to the city of love, Storybrooke, in Filisburg.

After taking some rest, he took Tessa to the local tourist attractions for a stroll—the Ixtal Tower, Palace of Anvil, Pixie Street, and the list went on.

To his dismay, Tessa did not seem to be interested throughout the whole journey, which perturbed him. He was worried that she would be distressed by the pent up feelings in her.

Later, when she had fallen asleep, he gave Edward a call to make some preparations.

. . .

The next day, Nicholas took Tessa to Barset Dom for a visit. As soon as they stepped into the church, he excused himself to answer a call. She did not mind it at all as she sat on the bench to wait for him.

At that moment, an old nun came up to her and piped up in a gentle voice, "You look sad. Is there something on your mind?"

Tessa raised her head to look at the nun, whom she felt had a charm prodding her to confide in. Finally, she poured out every emotion she had been suppressing this whole time. "Something happened to me recently. I know that it's not my fault, but I just can't shake off the strange feeling. I'm kinda stressed out by it."

"Since it's not your fault, why should you punish yourself because of someone else's mistake?"

Chapter 822 The Untangled Knot

The nun looked at Tessa with leniency while offering her heartening words. "I'm not sure what has happened to you, but the people who care for you will be worried if you keep this up. You're making it difficult for yourself and others. It's not worth it."

Right. It's not my fault. Why should I punish myself because of someone else's mistake?

Tessa's eyes lit up when she figured it out after the epiphany struck upon her. Just as she was going to express her gratitude for untangling the knot in her heart, the nun was nowhere to be found whereas Nicholas was watching her intensely nearby.

Given the circumstances, how could she not comprehend the situation by now? Nicholas had asked a favor of the nun for sure.

In that fleeting second, every moment spent in the last two days conjured in her head. She was deeply touched to know that Nicholas had been trying his best to untie the knot in her so that she could cheer up.

He's being considerate by paying attention to every single detail just for me. I shouldn't make him worried.

With hindsight, Tessa scurried her way to him and hugged his waist. In a choked voice, she suggested, "Let's go home. I miss Gregory."

"Okay. Let's head home." He wrapped his arm around her waist and they left the cathedral to head toward the airport.

Since the flight took more than ten hours, they arrived home on the second day. As soon as Gregory saw Tessa, he scampered his way to her and gave her a hug. He was being a sweet boy today.

It was because Nicholas had phoned him beforehand to inform him to behave because Tessa was in a bad mood and hence the sight of the caring boy hugging his mother sweetly. "Welcome home, Mommy."

His dazzling smile warmed her heart and lightened her mood ever so easily.

That night, Timothy found out about the incident that had transpired in Vienna after which he spared some time to pay Tessa a visit. Timothy and Gregory acted in sync and were being playful to make her happy.

The pall that had been plaguing her mind was now replaced by happiness and hence the frequent smiling face, which put Nicholas' mind at ease.

The second day Tessa returned to the country was the same day as Kathleen's funeral in Vienna. The grand funeral was filled to the brim. Numerous media outlets were releasing articles pertaining to it on the same day too.

'The End of the Renowned Violinist, Kathleen.'

'A Flashback of Kathleen's Success.'

While the articles were taking one back to the memory lane of Kathleen's past, netizens and her fans flooded the comment section beneath them.

'Rest in peace, Kathleen. You will stay in our heart for eternity.'

Due to Kathleen's huge fame, there was news of her in the country too. Tessa was stunned momentarily to see them by chance. When she pulled back her senses, she stared at Kathleen's picture displayed on the television while murmuring, "May you rest in peace."

. . .

Before it was time to get off work, Edward knocked on the door before entering the office. "President Sawyer, Miss Muller is here."

"Why is she here?" The frustration in Nicholas' eyes was evident, but he let her in nevertheless.

The oblivious woman strode toward his side in heels. It seemed like she was in a good mood. Ever since she discovered that he was back in the country, she had been using business matters as an excuse to drop by Sawyer Group.

As soon as she laid her feet into the office, she was attracted by the handsome man, who was exerting an aloof demeanor. She could not even mask the admiration in her gaze.

"Nicholas," she greeted with a smile.

"What's the matter?" He nodded and maintained his indifferent yet professional disposition.

Although she was hurt by that, she had gotten used to it as time passed. The smile on her was unwavered as she proffered a document to him. "Two days ago, you told me to refine this contract and I've got it done. Please take a look at it."

He nodded and sifted through the document. Once they were done talking about business matters, she was just about to invite him for dinner when his phone suddenly rang on the table.

Chapter 823 Wanda's Schemes

Wanda took a glimpse of the caller ID to realize that it was an incoming call from Tessa. Nicholas did not notice her action as he picked up the phone with a gentle expression.

"What's the matter?"

"What would you like for dinner? I'm going to cook tonight." Tessa's brisk voice resounded from the other side of the line.

The corner of his lips curled upward and he replied in a gentle voice, "I'll love anything that you make."

Wanda stared at him in a daze as though he was a stranger. It was because she had never seen him being so gentle. The intense jealousy crept into her heart almost instantly.

Meanwhile, he had ended the call and his brows furrowed when he saw her standing at the same spot. "Anything else?"

In other words, she could leave if there was nothing else. She naturally understood what he meant by that and her stomach churned. The indifference worn on his countenance made her wonder, Am I no match for Tessa?

After leaving Sawyer Group, she entered the car as a question seeped into her mind. Why did Tessa suddenly return to the country?

"Did something happen?" she muttered to herself.

Wanda asked someone to look into it as soon as she returned home. Later at midnight, she was shocked by the received information from her subordinates.

"So, the band got rid of her because it's related to someone's death. No wonder she's back in the country."

Her eyes glittered as she figured that she should make use of the incident for herself. Next day, a malicious Wanda brought along some supplements to Sawyer Residence to pay Remus a visit.

She caught sight of him sitting on the couch once she entered the house. In a lovely voice, she greeted, "Old Master Sawyer, I'm here to see you."

"Didn't I tell you that there's no need to bring so much stuff whenever you're here?" In spite of that, he grew fond of her to see her being so caring.

He asked her to take a seat before asking concernedly, "How's your company doing lately?"

"Everything's fine. It's all thanks to Nicholas and Kieran's help." Wanda updated him about the company's latest situation.

"Glad to hear that. You're doing well." Remus nodded and complimented her.

"You're flattering me, Old Master Sawyer. I still have a lot to learn compared to Nicholas and Kieran." She was slick with her words by giving the credits to Nicholas implicitly. After all, everyone loved it when others praised their kids and grandchildren.

The light conversation continued until she steered the topic to Tessa on purpose. "Old Master Sawyer, I've heard that there's a woman staying in Nicholas' place. I'm kinda worried that he's tricked by her."

Hearing that, Remus understood who Wanda was talking about. However, her final statement bothered him as his face darkened. "How so?"

"I saw her by chance and she seems familiar to me for some reason. So, I looked into it once I got home, but I'm really surprised to find that she has caused someone's death. I heard bad comments about her character as well."

The glint in his eyes dimmed when he heard that. From the very beginning, he had been saying that Tessa was not the match for Nicholas. Yet, Nicholas insisted on marrying that woman as if he was cast by a spell! How dare she stay by Nicholas' side when she has done such a thing! Is she trying to ruin his life?!

Sensing the seething fury in him, Wanda smiled faintly with smugness because she had achieved her goals.

Afterward, Remus sent her off before calling Ian to give his order. "Ask Tessa to stop by when you're free."

Looking at the livid Old Master, Ian could make a vague guess on what he was planning to do. "Are you sure? It's a one-sided story from Miss Muller. Master Nicholas will be angry if he finds out about it."

Chapter 824 Divorce

In actuality, Ian had overheard the conversation, but he believed that Tessa was not someone like Wanda had depicted.

Remus did not know of Ian's thought as he coldly snorted. "And? I've never come to like that girl. I trust Wanda. She will never blabber such a thing mindlessly."

To that, Ian was rendered speechless by his refute. Remus then continued, "Now that she's involved in a controversy, I won't let it become a blot to Nicholas as well as the Sawyer Family. There are some things that we must tend to. Otherwise, it might become a time bomb that will explode at any time."

Judging from the old man's determined gaze, Ian knew that it would be redundant to dissuade further. So, he nodded helplessly after which he phoned Tessa in the afternoon when Nicholas was still working in the office.

"Miss Reinhart, I'm Ian who works under Sawyer Residence. Old Master Sawyer wishes to see you."

. . .

In Dynasty Gardens, Tessa was baffled to hear that Remus wished to see her.

"Right now?"

"Yes. Please come as soon as possible."

"Okay." After hanging up the phone, the jittery feeling struck upon her because she could not understand why Remus wanted to see her out of the blue. With the colossal guesses in her head, she went straight to Sawyer Residence.

Walking toward the living room, she saw him sitting on the couch with solemnity. As the senior of the household, the inherent majestic aura around him was formidable.

Nonetheless, she approached him and greeted politely, "Hi, Grandpa."

He opened his eyes to take a look at the girl before him. Since she was going to visit him, she had dressed up properly.

With the simple make-up enhancing her sophisticated nature, her demureness had the strange magic touch that could placate one's anger. Needless to say, Remus did notice that.

Furthermore, the fact that there was a change in her when he first saw her was more surprising to him. Still, he needed to say whatever he had to.

As an afterthought, he asked her to sit before diving straight into the topic. "I've asked you to come because I wish that you will divorce Nicholas."

Tessa's heart sank as she thought, I knew it.

"Why?" She bit her lips and stared at him straight into the eyes.

Remus leveled with her. "Although Nicholas has covered up for what you've done in Vienna, there's no secret that remains untold in this world. I know what you've done there."

Misunderstanding that he had found out about the terminated contract with the band, she frowned in displeasure. "Even if I'm not one of the band, I believe that it is not a reason that can separate us apart."

"Besides, you're bearing a person's life on your back and there's a problem with your attitude. Such labels will follow you wherever you go in future and we don't allow that kind of thing to exist in our family!" exclaimed Remus sternly.

Color drained from her face as though she was struck by lightning, for she had never expected him to think that she was the cause for Kathleen's death. The grievance grew in her as she gritted her teeth. "Grandpa, have you looked into every detail of it? Just what makes you so sure that I've caused someone's death? Do I look like someone who would do that?"

"I firmly believe that there's a reason for everything because it takes two to tango," he countered indifferently. "Plus, if you have nothing to do with it, why are you discarded by the band?"

She bit her lips in sorrow as she could not find the words to retaliate his question. She admitted that there was an indirect interrelation in between, yet it was really not her fault.

Kathleen could not face the repercussions for the wrong deeds she had done; her tenacity was the one to blame for and not someone else. Although it was bad to put it that way when the person involved had passed away, it was the truth! Moreover, the terminated contract was a result of a hope to end things nicely with Hathaway.

However, none of this was privy to Remus...

Chapter 825 I Won't Agree to a Divorce!

Remus looked at the woman who remained silent and there was a forceful note in his voice. "If you really love Nicholas, then you should consider things from his perspective. Things are ruthless in the corporate world and if any of these are revealed to Nicholas' rivals, you do realize how huge the blow would be on him and the entire Sawyer Group, right?"

Although his words were cutthroat, Tessa clenched her teeth and did not plan on backing down. After all, she was not at fault, so she was determined not to give in!

"I said that this has nothing to do with me." She looked at Remus firmly and spoke in a low voice, "Grandpa, I realize that you don't trust my words, but you should know to come up with proof before you make any accusations. With all due respect, you should be careful with your words."

As soon as Remus heard her words, he felt that his authority was challenged. "Are you trying to teach me a lesson?"

He narrowed his eyes slightly and a stern aura was exuded from all around his figure. "Are you telling me that Kathleen's death was just a joke? Weren't your contract terminated by the orchestra?"

Tessa clenched her fist and her fingernails became deeply embedded into her flesh. She could not come up with the words to stand up for herself. "All these that you just mentioned... are true."

"Since they are true, doesn't it make you implicated in this whole matter?" He kept his eyes on her and he behaved in an overbearing manner.

At that moment, Tessa clenched her fist tightly, not feeling any sensation at all.

"Whatever it is, I won't agree to a divorce with Nicholas."

She met Remus' eyes with a firm expression and her tone of voice clearly indicated that she had no intention of budging. She declared stubbornly, "Nicholas cares about me very much, so I will never disappoint him. You do not have a good impression of me and that's because it's ingrained within you from the start. This current matter is just an excuse for you to make me leave and that's also why you don't care at all about the truth."

Her words exposed his actual thoughts and he was flustered by her words.

Indeed, he did not care about how the matter unfolded and his main intention was to make use of this incident to force this woman to leave his grandson.

Of course though, he would never admit to having such intentions in front of Tessa.

"I maintain my stance. Everything happens for a reason and it takes two to tango."

She glanced at Remus who was stubborn in his ways and she felt quite resigned.

She heaved a deep sigh and made the decision to briefly explain how the matter cropped up and how it unfolded.

"I have nothing to do with Kathleen's death at all. She was somehow always jealous of me, so we never got along in the orchestra. Because of that, she targeted me continuously and set me up. Furthermore, she nearly caused my miscarriage and even attempted to harm my life. If Nicholas hadn't turned up in time, my child and I would have ended up dead."

At that instance, Remus was shocked beyond words. He never expected that there would be an inside story to the issue. Instantly, his expression turned solemn. Although he did not have a good impression of Tessa, the child that she carried was part of the Sawyer Family, so he would not allow anyone to harm any of the Sawyers members.

Tessa noticed the change in his attitude and she could not help heaving a sigh of relief to herself.

Evidently, she realized that the change in his attitude was most likely due to the revelation that Kathleen had intended to harm her child.

Even so, Tessa was unperturbed by that as she continued, "Kathleen was taken into police custody and everything was done according to the correct procedures. After all, one has to face the consequences of one's misdeeds, so punishment is inevitable. She ended up taking her own life in prison after that, which was something I never expected at all. I do feel some remorse over that, but I never targeted to end her life. As for my termination of the contract with the orchestra... Kathleen was the only daughter of my mentor, so after this incident, it would be tough for both me and my mentor if I remained in the orchestra; that's why I chose to leave."

After she had said that, Remus had no other words to respond to that.

The things that he found logical previously were no longer applicable to this situation. However, he remained stubbornly steadfast in his own ways and had no intention of giving up.

"Even if this has nothing to do with you, I do not wish you to affect Nicholas' life any further. Haven't you realized that you're always bringing trouble to his life while you remain by his side? Not only are you not able to help him, but he constantly has to sort out your issues."

Remus' words were scathing.

At that moment, Tessa's breathing hitched.

However, she managed to calm down soon enough. She stood up and mustered up her courage to meet his domineering eyes and her tone of voice remained firm.

Chapter 826 Tessa's Vow

"Grandpa, I understand that you currently disapprove of me, but that doesn't mean that will remain permanent. I admit that I'm not of equal social status with Nicholas at the moment, but I'll work to the best of my abilities to achieve ultimate success so that everyone will be aware of my presence. I'll definitely become a match good enough for him!"

After Tessa said that, she bowed respectfully and turned around to leave without bothering to find out Remus' response.

Meanwhile, he sat alone on the couch in the opulent living room and the words that she had just spoken reverberated in his ears.

"I'll definitely achieve ultimate success and become a match good enough for Nicholas! I realize that you currently disapprove of me, but that doesn't mean that your impression of me will remain permanent. I will work to the best of my abilities to prove myself!"

As soon as Remus recalled the tenacity, resilience, and confidence that Tessa showcased earlier, he was significantly astounded by that. Unexpectedly, he felt that this girl was very likely to succeed someday. Even if the path ahead of her was full of difficulties, she would overcome everything ultimately and fulfill her words.

As soon as he thought of that, he instantly became silent.

Meanwhile, Tessa had originally maintained a ramrod straight back, but her shoulders slumped upon walking out of the living room.

She had used up all of the courage and strength within her to say those words from earlier. After all, when faced with Remus, she could not help feeling the immense pressure well up within her. Nonetheless, she meant every single word that she uttered.

Regardless of the old man's displeasure toward her, she was determined to not give up easily, especially in her relationship with Nicholas. As long as he held onto her, she would never leave him.

At that moment, she instantly felt invigorated at the thought of that and she was now full of energy.

"Just keep going! I will definitely make it!" She headed toward the main door as she cheered on herself.

However, she had barely taken a few steps forward when she noticed an unexpected person standing by the main door.

Nicholas was clad in a black trench coat and he stood by the side of his car outside the door. He had a smile on his face as he kept his eyes on Tessa and there was a very tender expression on his face.

"Nicholas, why are you here?" She was significantly stunned to see him as she ran over to him with a surprised look on her face.

He was worried about her falling to the ground, so he quickly stepped forward and stopped her. "I heard that Grandpa wanted to see you and I came over as soon as I got word; I was worried that he would give you a hard time."

As soon as Tessa heard that, there was a warm feeling that welled up within her. She lifted her head and beamed widely as she asked, "Then, why didn't you enter the house when you arrived? It's too cold to stand outside."

"I noticed that you performed remarkably and you didn't need my help at all, so I didn't enter the house. I decided to let you have free reign."

Nicholas lowered his head and met Tessa's eyes. At that moment, she was nearly swamped by the tender look in his eyes.

She was momentarily stunned and she realized that he must have arrived earlier on and heard the conversation between her and Remus. However, she was not sure how much of the conversation he had overheard.

"When did you arrive? How much of the conversation between me and Grandpa did you hear?"

"I didn't eavesdrop on you guys. I was openly listening to you guys speak, but the two of you were just too engrossed in conversation, so you guys didn't realize my presence," explained Nicholas.

Tessa continued to pursue the matter. "So, how much did you hear?"

"I heard someone mention that she will never disappoint me and she will strive hard to become a good match for me. She will also prove to Grandpa that she can definitely achieve all of that." As he spoke, there were flashbacks of the scene he saw in the living room in his mind.

In actuality, Tessa had been terrified of his grandpa, but she had mustered up her courage to stand up against his grandpa for his sake. She did not cower and give up at all, so he was very touched by that.

At that moment, she felt rather shy as she did not expect him to overhear everything that she had said.

Despite her shyness, she could not help but dive into his embrace as she promised him solemnly, "I meant every single word that I said. Regardless of what happens, I will never give up on you. Unless you choose to give up on me, I will definitely remain by your side forever and ever."

"You're silly. I will never abandon you!"

Nicholas hugged her back tightly and spoke affectionately, "I'm very blessed to have met you, fell in love with you, and married you in this lifetime."

Chapter 827 A Shuffle of Positions in the Orchestra

Remus also ended up finding out that Nicholas had turned up.

Remaining seated in the living room, Remus watched the retreating backs of the duo from the window with slightly narrowed eyes. Suddenly, he instructed, "Ian, arrange for our men to Vienna and investigate the matter. Find out whether everything happened according to what Tessa mentioned."

Ian hesitated for a moment and tried to persuade Remus otherwise, "Sir, I reckon you should trust Master Nicholas' judgment. If Miss Reinhart is actually such a nasty person, there's no way Master Nicholas would have been drawn to her."

"Why are you giving me so many comments?! Just do as I say and investigate the matter!" Remus glared at Ian slightly angrily.

In response, Ian revealed an abashed look and he had no choice but to heed Remus' words and do as he instructed.

On the other hand, Wanda also found out that Remus had met up with Tessa; she had been following up closely on this matter.

However, she realized that night that everything remained calm after Tessa and Remus' meeting. The situation did not unfold according to her expectation, so her heart sank with that knowledge. What does Remus think of Tessa? Has he actually accepted her?

"No way. If Old Master Sawyer had accepted that woman, then he would not have allowed me to approach Nicholas." Wanda shrugged off that notion without further consideration, but she somehow had a niggling uneasy feeling in her mind.

At the moment, she was very tempted to visit Remus and probe the situation, but she ended up maintaining a level head and stopped herself in time. She realized that if she went over too frequently, Remus—being quite perceptive—would definitely have a mind of his own, so she suppressed herself and decided to find another chance at a later stage.

. . .

After Kathleen's lavish funeral in Vienna, Hathaway finally went back to the orchestra. At the moment, she was in poor spirits and she looked haggard. She had lost tons of weight and even getting a good night's sleep had become a challenge.

Over this period of time, she had been busy making funeral arrangements for her daughter, so she did not have much time to deal with matters of the orchestra. There were a lot of things at the orchestra that she was forced to put a temporary halt to. However, she was determined not to lose her career after losing her daughter.

Hathaway entered her office and requested for Blaire to report back on the current status of the orchestra.

"Right now, the main problem for our orchestra is that both groups have lost their principal violinists. I reckon that we've got to resolve this issue first. As long as the principal violinists for both groups are sorted, then we should be able to pick up on the rest of the tasks." Blaire briefly brought up the current situation of the orchestra.

Hathaway nodded slightly and instructed, "Inform the rest of the orchestra to gather at Music Room One for a meeting ten minutes later."

Blaire heeded her instructions and nodded

Ten minutes later, everyone whispered amongst themselves and discussed the situation in Music Room One.

"What do you guys reckon? Do you think that the music director gathered all of us here to select the principal violinists for both groups?"

"That should be it. After all, this is the most pressing matter for our orchestra at the moment."

"Then, does that mean all of us here are eligible?" There were plenty of excited noises that rang out amongst the crowd.

However, a minority of them logically figured out that the current selection process of the lead violinists would not be conducted as a competition setting like before. After all, the orchestra had to restore its normal operation. Furthermore, time was critical, so there was no time to waste on such processes; it was how things were anyway.

Hathaway stood on stage and announced solemnly, "Everyone of you must be aware of the reason I summoned all of you here today. The previous incident resulted in our orchestra halting all of our performances. In order to restore operations as soon as possible, I've made a decision about the candidates for the principal violinists of both groups. The deputy lead violinists will be promoted to lead violinists and subsequently, each group below will be promoted as well."

Hathaway made her announcement and there were mixed feelings in the room.

However, she was unconcerned about all this because her main priority was to restore operations to the orchestra.

However, despite the series of promotions that she had initiated, the loss of two talented principal violinists was a huge blow to the orchestra. Their reputation was significantly affected adversely and their performances were largely reduced.

In regard to this outcome, a lot of the members of the press reported on this matter and brought up some concerns

Chapter 828 Kathleen Has Awaken

'The Hathaway Philharmonic has undergone significant changes! Will the new lead violinist be able to fill the role?'

'Will Hathaway be able to produce a violinist as talented as Tessa and Kathleen? And how quickly will the new lead violinist rise?'

When the news broke, it drew the attention of many netizens.

"I believe it will take some time for the Hathaway Philharmonic to reclaim their former glory."

"The lead violinists chosen by Hathaway this time are said to have all been promoted from the position of deputy lead violinist. In terms of abilities, I believe they fall short of the previous two."

"Anyway, the standard of the Hathaway Philharmonic may not possibly rise again after a couple of years."

Kathleen's fans even boycotted the decision in the comments.

"Hathaway is truly Kathleen's caring mother. Kathleen has only been buried for a few days and she is eager to find a replacement for her daughter."

"We will not approve the lead violinist of Group One except Kathleen; this position will always be hers."

The boycotting of Kathleen fans exacerbated the situation and Tessa was also aware of the orchestra members' promotion.

She felt surprisingly calm after reading the news. Not my problem anymore.

Moreover, she believed that her recent life had been great. It was slow paced and she was able to stay by the side of her loved ones; life was simple and happy.

During this period, Timothy had also been enlightening her, telling her to take things one step at a time. As a result, she was no longer in a rush for the next chapter and planned to rest for a while.

On the weekend, the entire family went out early in the morning because they had promised to take Gregory to the zoo.

The little guy was ecstatic along the way. "Mommy, let's see the giraffe first, then the big lion." Gregory eagerly planned their route around the zoo with his fingers pointing straight. Of course, Tessa agreed with him full of love.

Nicholas' eyes glowed softly as he watched the two interact gently. There were a lot of tourists when they arrived at the zoo since it was the weekend. To avoid colliding with other visitors, he kept a close eye on Tessa. Gregory also followed her lead obediently.

At the end of the day, they had a great time and took a lot of pictures. They did not rush back home after dinner in the evening. Instead, they went to the movies and watched an animation film with Gregory.

On the way back, the little guy was happily discussing the movie with Tessa.

The car was filled with contagious happy laughter.

. . .

At Rorion's villa in Vienna...

After finishing breakfast, he sent all of the servants out and went to the basement by himself.

When he came down to the basement, he stood in front of a wall and pressed a button, which caused the wall to open, revealing a passage. He finally arrived at the innermost room at the end of the passage after several authentications.

The lights were bright in the room; a crystal coffin was placed in the center and inside lay Kathleen, who was supposed to be buried!

"From now on, Daddy will give you a new life and you will be free from now on," Rorion whispered softly to his daughter in the crystal coffin.

He tucked her daughter's hair lovingly before fishing a bottle of potion from his pocket and pouring it directly into her mouth. He then wiped his daughter's mouth and stood by the side, waiting for her to wake up.

Kathleen, who was supposed to be unconscious, twitched her eyelashes almost half an hour later

The next second, she slowly opened her eyes and was unaccustomed to the lights in the room. She was still a little dazed and confused about the situation, so she used her hands to block the light.

"You're awake, Kathleen!" Rorion cheerfully exclaimed.

"Daddy?" Kathleen removed her hands from her eyes and was surprised to see her father standing next to her.

Chapter 829 A New Identity

Kathleen then realized she was neither in a hospital nor prison and wondered, "Daddy, where am I?"

"This is the cellar beneath my house. I promised you that I would save you, remember?"

With that, Rorion stepped forward and helped Kathleen out of the crystal coffin.

Kathleen, with her feet on the ground, suddenly remembered what had occurred prior to her passing out.

She recalled his father paying her a visit in prison two days before she passed out, bringing her clothes and money as well as a pill.

He had specifically told her to take the pill, so she did not think much about it and took it that very night. As a result, she had excruciating abdominal pain the next day, foamed at the mouth, and eventually passed out.

"What kind of medicine did you give me, Daddy? And what is my current situation?"

"That's the medicine for suspended animation. You'll be free in the future now that you've been certified death by suicide."

"There will be no Kathleen in this world from now on," Rorion continued with a smile.

"Do I even exist?" Kathleen was taken aback and she only had a hazy idea of what was going on.

The next thing she knew, he was smiling and confirming, "Yes, you will no longer be Kathleen in the future. Your new identity will be Susan."

"Although this is a new identity for you, I promise you that I will assist you in reclaiming your glory," he assured solemnly after a brief pause.

Kathleen was stunned for a moment before realizing what he was implying. Her previous accomplishments were erased due to her new identity and she had to start from scratch.

"This is wonderful. Having a new identity is better than being in jail anyway." She brushed it off, despite the fact that it was a shame.

Rorion sighed with relief as he saw his daughter accepting the offer and he smiled. "Daddy will help you no matter what you do in the future and I won't let you suffer any longer."

Kathleen gave a slight nod.

No, it was time to address her as Susan.

Susan's initial joy at being reborn was quickly overshadowed by hatred as she remembered the crimes she had committed in the cell during this time period, as well as the person who had caused her to end up in this state.

"Daddy, how is that b*tch, Tessa?" she inquired grimly.

"She's doing fantastic!" Rorion despised Tessa as well.

Had she not been persistent after Susan's deeds, his daughter would not have been required to fake her death and change her identity.

"It's great that she's fine." Susan's eyes were half-squinted and frighteningly sinister. "She has to be! That's how I can precisely exact my revenge!"

Rorion was aware of her plan after hearing this and advised, "You can't be too high key right now. People are still talking about you."

"Should I just stay put and watch Tessa live better than I do, then?" She clenched her teeth and inquired.

"Don't you rush, darling. I'll definitely assist you in exacting vengeance after you've used your new identity for a while." He continued, knowing that she might not be satisfied with his words. "Rest assured, I won't give this b*tch a single day of peace."

Susan finally relaxed after hearing her father's words.

"In addition, since you've changed your identity, you can't appear with your current face," he continued.

"Would you like me to get plastic surgery?" She frowned as if she was reluctant.

"Plastic surgery is risky and I don't want you to suffer, so I requested that a human skin mask be prepared for disguise. It's made of cutting-edge technology and it looks so real that it's not," Rorion assured while shaking his head.

Even so, Susan was dissatisfied.

She grew increasingly resentful of Tessa as she realized she would have to live with a mask in the future. It is this b*tch's fault that I am forced to change my identity!

. . .

Peacefully at home, Tessa was completely unaware of the situation.

After coaxing Gregory to sleep as usual, she returned to her room and fell asleep in Nicholas' embrace.

Chapter 830 An Invitation From the World-Class Violinist

Tessa had a nightmare in the middle of the night for no apparent reason.

In the dream, Kathleen was strangling her with a terrifying pale face.

"Tessa, give me my life back..."

"No... Leave my child alone." Tessa shook her head uncomfortably on the bed and her forehead was drenched in cold sweat.

Nicholas was startled awake by her panicked murmur. When he saw this, he took her into his arms immediately and worriedly asked, "Nightmare?"

"In my dream, Kathleen came to me seeking vengeance and was plotting to murder our children." Tessa clutched his arm tightly, terrified.

"Okay, it's alright. I'm here for you. I will not let anyone harm you or our children," he reassured his trembling wife.

Next, he lowered his head and kissed her forehead.

She lightly nodded, but she could not sleep for a while as she was still troubled. With no other choice, the loving husband could only hug her repeatedly to comfort her and it took him a long time to get her to sleep.

. . .

Tessa awoke the next morning in good spirits as if she had forgotten what had happened the night before.

Nicholas exhaled a sigh of relief as he looked at her. He was worried that the nightmare last night would have an impact on her mood.

After breakfast, he went to the company while Tessa brought Gregory to the piano room to practice.

Later, she was surprised to receive a phone call from Louis.

"Mr. Louis, to what do I owe the pleasure?"

"What? You truly leave me speechless. It's fine that you didn't inform me about what was going on, but how could you have left without saying a goodbye? Do I not matter to you anymore?"

Although it sounded like he was chiding her on the phone, his words were filled with concern.

Knowing Louis' character well, she did not mind at all; in fact, she was delighted by his concern.

"Well, I didn't want to bother you." She asked with a coquettish smile, "You must be looking for me because of something, right?"

He snorted as he realized she was intentionally changing the subject, but he still explained the reason for the call.

"Your better days are coming. Sofia would like to see you."

"Sofia... The Sofia??" Tessa was a little out of her mind.

That was because Sofia was a world-class violinist and even a level higher than Hathaway! Despite the fact that she was now retired, her influence was enormous!

"You're right. It's her."

"She wants to invite you to the orchestra. If you are available, I can assist you in arranging a meeting time," Louis said, slightly nodding.

As much as Tessa was moved when she heard this, she hesitated. "I think I could only give you an answer by tonight."

Aware of her situation, he did not press the issue, but urged regardless, "I finally invited her after much deliberation, so you must seize this opportunity!"

When Nicholas returned that night, he found his wife distracted.

He did not, however, inquire right away; instead, he dined with his family.

Tessa returned to her room later that night after putting Gregory to sleep.

Unexpectedly, she fell into a reassuring embrace as soon as she walked into the room.

"What's the matter?" she inquired, smiling and hugging Nicholas in front of her.

"I should be asking that. What's the matter with you? When I got home tonight, you were looking down." He released her from his embrace and turned to face her.

She smiled, for she thought she had successfully masked her emotions, but she did not expect Nicholas to see right through it.

He approached a smiling Tessa again and asked with his low magnetic voice, "Tell me what happened, hm?"