

Always Been Yours Chapter 861

Chapter 861 Special Treatment

Tessa was a little surprised and asked, “Did something happen?”

“Not at all. It’s because Group Six is about to be established, but Kellen is still too young and needs me to take care of him, so I will stay in the orchestra during this time,” Sofia explained the gist of things.

Hearing that, Tessa nodded. “I see. I’m fine with it.”

Gregory didn’t have any problems either as he would follow Tessa wherever she went. Hence, they set off for the orchestra.

In the orchestra, Kellen had already received the news and was waiting at the door. Upon seeing Sofia exiting the car and walking over with Tessa and Gregory behind her, he hurriedly rushed over to them.

“Hello, Miss Sofia, Tessa, Greg,” he greeted cheerfully.

Tessa and Gregory greeted him as well. “Hello, Kellen.”

After they finished exchanging their greetings, Sofia asked, “Have you prepared the practice room for Tessa?”

“After receiving your order, I asked someone to do it as soon as possible. It has been sorted out now.” Kellen looked at Sofia as if he was taking credit for the task.

On the other hand, Tessa was a little flattered. She didn’t expect Sofia to prepare a practice room for herself and thanked politely, “I’m sorry for causing trouble for you, Kellen.”

When he saw how polite his junior was, Kellen's goodwill toward her soared. "You're welcome. This is what I should do as your senior."

Next to them, Sofia nodded approvingly and smiled at Tessa. "Not bad. If you need anything in the future, you can just ask your seniors."

Upon feeling the care her teacher and senior apprentice had for her, Tessa felt warm on the inside, and greatly enjoyed the atmosphere.

After entering the orchestra, Sofia suddenly instructed, "Since the practice room is ready, you should take Tessa to have a look, Kellen."

Kellen nodded and took Tessa to the practice room, which was a private room on the fourth floor. Although they didn't have much time to prepare, the room was fully equipped, and it was clear that they had put a lot of thought into the decorations as well.

Standing next to Tessa, he said with a smile, "Have a look, Tessa. If you need anything else, feel free to tell me."

As Tessa looked at the spacious and bright practice room, she felt grateful enough to have such a luxurious and private practice room to herself, so she didn't have the heart to be picky either.

"I think you've prepared everything I would need, Kellen, and I don't need anything else. Thank you so much." She thanked him again, and her sincere attitude made Kellen's impression of her improve greatly.

"Since there's nothing more you need, you can practice here with Greg. Just give me a call if you have any problems." After speaking, Kellen left.

When he exited the room, many members of the orchestra outside craned their necks curiously to investigate. Ever since Sofia showed Tessa around the orchestra last time, everyone in the orchestra knew that Sofia had accepted a new student.

They were also aware that this student was Tessa, the Virtuoso who was well-known in Vienna.

All of a sudden, many of them were envious of Tessa. Usually, they would be happy as long as Sofia commented on their playing. However, Tessa was now receiving personal lessons from Sofia, and this treatment made them extremely jealous.

Of course, Tessa was unaware of this, and she quietly practiced in the room with Gregory.

On the other side, after Kellen left, he went directly to Group Six's training hall to meet up with Sofia.

Upon seeing him, she asked in concern, "Have Tessa and Greg settled down? Are they happy with the practice room?"

"Yes, and Tessa is happy with the practice room as well," Kellen reported, feeling surprised. It seemed that Sofia paid a lot of attention to Tessa and Gregory.

Meanwhile, as they didn't hide their conversation, the members of Group Six became even more envious of Tessa. However, the most envious of them all was Susan. She originally thought that she could gain an advantage by entering the orchestra one step earlier than Tessa, but now it seemed that her plans had been in vain.

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Chapter 862 Susan and Kathleen Are Too Similar

However, even if that was the case, Susan refused to give up!

On the other hand, Sofia had begun talking to Kellen about Group Six's progress.

"I've confirmed the specific members of Group Six, but I haven't decided on the concertmaster and associate concertmaster yet as I've been uncertain about the candidates for these two positions." Kellen told her about the biggest problem he was currently facing.

Hearing that, Sofia thoughtfully scanned the members standing next to her and ordered, "Play a piece for me."

Saying that, she walked to a chair at the front and quietly listened.

After a brief pause, the members immediately became excited. It was clear that Sofia planned to guide them.

Not long later, the practice room was filled with the pleasant sound of music as everyone showed their best performance and played even better than usual. Among them, Susan stood out the most. If someone from outside the industry listened to them, they would only think that their playing sounded beautiful, but Sofia found many problems, and the biggest of them all was Susan.

At the end of the piece, everyone looked at Sofia expectantly. Living up to their expectations, she pointed out the problematic musicians and gave them some simple advice.

When it came to Susan, she frowned and said objectively, "There is no denying that your performance is the best in the entire group. Whether it is your skills,

musicality, or stage presence, you're quite seasoned, but you stand out too much. Besides, your playing style sounds too much like someone else, and you can't blend in well with the rest, causing your performance to stand out from the rest of the orchestra."

After hearing Sofia's words, the other members of the orchestra began discussing in soft voices.

"It's true that Susan's playing style is too powerful. She doesn't blend in well with us."

"I don't know why, but I keep getting the feeling that she's a lot like Kathleen."

"You felt so too? So did I. I thought that it was my imagination."

"Now that you mentioned it, Susan and Kathleen's playing styles are indeed very similar."

Hearing their conversation, Susan became ill at ease all of a sudden. Of course, she knew that this was indeed her own problem. After all, she had been Kathleen for more than 20 years, and some habits had been integrated into her bones. Even if she deliberately changed it, she would always inadvertently carry the shadow of her past.

At that thought, she suppressed her unusual emotions and explained, "I've always liked Kathleen's playing style in the past, so I'm used to imitating her interpretation. But don't worry, Miss Sofia. I'll adjust my playing style as soon as possible so that it'll fit the orchestra."

Sofia nodded and continued to guide the others. Before they knew it, the morning had already gone by. After she finished instructing them, Sofia took Kellen to the practice room where Tessa was in.

"Hello, Miss Sofia, Kellen."

“Hello, Granny Sofia, Mr. Kellen.”

Upon seeing their arrival, Tessa and Gregory stopped practicing and greeted them politely.

Sofia nodded before asking them concernedly, “How’s everything going? Have you gotten used to this place?”

“We’re doing pretty well,” Tessa replied with a smile before she voluntarily reported her and Gregory’s progress.

Feeling satisfied, Sofia nodded and said, “Come, let’s go and have lunch.”

Tessa didn’t refuse and went out with her while holding Gregory’s hand. Besides them and Kellen, the other two senior apprentices had followed along as well.

At the table, Jenny and Daniela asked him worriedly, “Kellen, Miss Sofia personally came to help you look after things. How did it go? Have you chosen the concertmaster and associate concertmaster?”

“Not yet.” Kellen shook his head.

He was nearly tearing his hair out from nominating candidates for these two positions. At first, he had greatly favored Susan, but Sofia was not satisfied with her.

As if seeing through his thoughts, Sofia suddenly spoke up. “Susan isn’t bad, but she’s still not good enough to become a concertmaster. She’s not as skilled as Tessa.”

Upon hearing the praise for his mother, Gregory said with a look of pride from the side, “My mommy is really amazing. Every piece she plays sounds good.”

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Chapter 863 Tessa's Performance

As everyone looked at his boastful attitude, they only thought that he was extremely adorable. At the same time, Jenny and the others became more curious about Tessa's skills. They could tell that Sofia greatly favored her, but it was a pity that none of them had heard her performance in person.

Kellen couldn't help but encourage her, "Tessa, why don't you come and give it a shot at my group later in the afternoon?"

The moment he finished speaking, his words immediately received Jenny and Daniela's approval.

The two joined in to egg her on with a smile, saying, "If you were able to gain Miss Sofia's recognition, you must be fantastic."

"Tessa, you should play a piece for us later so that we can enjoy your performance."

As she faced her senior apprentices who were curious about her, Tessa had no problem with their suggestion, so she nodded graciously and said with a smile, "I'll listen to anything Kellen says."

Kellen, Jenny, and Daniela adored their junior's sweet and polite behavior.

"Sure. When I go back later, I'll have everything arranged for you." Kellen happily agreed.

Seeing that, Sofia nodded with a smile as well. "That's a good idea."

After lunch, Kellen went back to inform the members of Group Six. Later that afternoon, the members of Group Six gathered during their training.

Meanwhile, the fact that Tessa was going to perform with them spread to the entire Sofia Symphony at an incredible speed during the noon break. In addition, the two groups that were not performing heard of it as well, and many of them wanted to watch the performance as they wanted to see what skills Tessa had that helped her gain Sofia's favor. Before it was even half past two, Group Six's practice room was already full of people, and even the hallway outside the door was packed.

At this moment, Tessa took to the stage with her violin under their heavy anticipation. Although she only wore a simple beige sweater with jeans, her aura changed from the moment she stepped onto the stage, turning from casual to solemn and elegant.

"Hello, everyone. I'm Tessa, Miss Sofia's newly accepted student. For the next piece, I'll play the violin with the members of Group Six." She bowed and introduced herself in a steady and soft voice.

At this moment, she was actually a little nervous. After all, this was the first time she was performing in front of everyone after being trained by Sofia, and many of these people were renowned musicians who had been around in the industry for a long time. Although she was on the edge, she was filled with passion and was even more excited for her performance as she wanted to see how much she had improved after training for so long.

Thunderous applause sounded after Tessa's words, and everyone looked forward to her performance later. However, Susan was not included in their ranks. She stood in the crowd and glared intently at Tessa, her resentment almost overwhelming her sanity. Though her fingers were digging into her palms, she didn't seem to feel the slightest pain.

Why? Why was she still not as good as that b*tch, Tessa, after she had done so much and worked hard in the orchestra for so long? She cursed hysterically in her

heart, her eyes turning red with hatred. As expected, the existence of this woman was a hurdle in her life, and she had to get rid of her!

Tessa wasn't aware of this. After she stood still on the stage, she heard Sofia's instructions. "I only have one requirement for you, and that is to blend in with the others. As for everything else, do as you see fit."

"I understand," Tessa replied with a nod.

Gregory then sent her a flying kiss from the audience and cheered her on. "Good luck, Mommy!"

When the others saw his adorable behavior, they erupted in a bout of friendly laughter, and Tessa felt her heart warm at the sight as well.

On the other hand, the other members of Group Six beside her were also adjusting their mindset. It wasn't just Tessa's first time performing in front of everyone, but also their first time playing in front of such a huge crowd after training for so long. Hence, they would not allow any errors to occur.

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Chapter 864 Praises All Around

Soon, the practice room was gradually filled with a lively melody. As each member of Group Six brought their best foot forward, they demonstrated to everyone the results of their team efforts. With the melody steadily growing aggressive, the audience was blown away by their imposing performance.

Standing at the center of the stage, Tessa did not immediately begin her performance, as she started playing her violin only when the performance reached its second theme. Though the tune of the violin was heart-touching and beautiful to those it touched, it naturally blended well with the group's melody. Focused on the strings of her violin on stage, Tessa made wonderful, heart-moving tunes each time her slender fingers plucked the violin strings in succession and fascinated the audience.

Naturally, her musical style was highly distinctive as well. Unlike Susan's style where it would overshadow and even disrupt the harmony of the whole melody, Tessa's style of playing was akin to a shepherd trying to lead the entire orchestra from the front seat.

Even though Tessa had never practiced with the members of Group Six, their chemistry was undeniable. In conclusion, the performance here was very much successful to the extent that it would not be a lie to say that it was a performance to die for.

Under the stage, Kellen finally understood the reason Sofia had taken Tessa under her wing as he looked at Tessa who was radiant with confidence. "This junior of mine does have a trick or two up her sleeves. Miss Sofia, your insight is as sharp as

ever!” He praised Tessa without mincing his words and flattered his mentor while he was at it.

Standing beside him, Jenny nodded approvingly before she said with a smile, “I’ve once seen her performance when she was still with Hathaway Philharmonic. Back then, she was just as agile and skilled. However, she was not as experienced in her performance as she was today. She has really improved a lot since then.” After that, she went on to compliment Sofia as well. “Honestly, this is all thanks to you, Miss Sofia. Your training has boosted Tessa’s overall performance.”

Daniela also nodded in agreement. “I’m now looking forward to the day when Miss Sofia has thoroughly tempered Tessa’s overall ability. I wonder just what kind of surprise she would show us then.”

Listening to those under her wing singing praises for Tessa, Sofia looked at Tessa with a satisfied expression. “Tessa does have the tendency of surprising others. I am looking forward to seeing what she’ll achieve in the future as well.” Then, she paused briefly before she turned her head slightly to Kellen and said, “If you’re planning to choose someone to be the concertmaster of Group Six, I would suggest for that person’s musical style to be just like Tessa’s. Not only would it be compatible with the orchestra, but it would also show off its distinctiveness as well.”

“I will keep that in mind, Miss Sofia.” Kellen nodded to confirm he understood what Sofia was telling him.

As the audience slowly came back from their senses during Group Six’s performance, each and every one of them became in awe of Tessa.

“Just as expected of the ‘Virtuoso.’ She’s just too amazing.”

“I’ve heard her performance before when she was still with the Hathaway Philharmonic. But, I’ve always felt that there was something lacking in her performance. Now, I think she’s perfect.”

“No wonder Sofia took her under her wing. Tessa’s skills would make anyone jealous.”

“Rumors say that she has only been learning from Sofia for less than a month. I wonder how terrifying she would be after Sofia’s done training her.”

“I’m already looking forward to that day.”

Listening to everyone showering praises over his mother, Gregory puffed his chest out proudly. Mommy is amazing. There are so many people that’ve been saying good things about her. One day, I’ll be just as good as Mommy is, so she’ll be proud of me too. Thinking that, he looked at the stage with his eyes lit, and thought to himself just how beautiful his mother was right now.

On the other side of the room, Susan, who was also performing right now, was bewildered as she looked at the radiant Tessa from a short distance away. She couldn’t accept how Tessa had improved by leaps and bounds in such a short period of time. As a result, she started playing several wrong notes.

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Chapter 865 Apprentices' Approval

Fortunately, Susan managed to come back to her senses and correct her mistakes after one of the members beside her gently nudged her. However, her heart was still in panic and confusion. As the performance came to an end, they were received with thunderous applause from the audience, as the audience felt that they were perfect in their performance. In particular, they all felt that Tessa's performance was outstanding and excellent.

"That was amazing." Everyone sang similar praises.

Gregory was also clapping his small hands in excitement. Although his palms had turned red from clapping a little too hard, he did not feel even the slightest pain. "Mommy's the best!"

As though she had heard Gregory's praise, Tessa smiled sweetly at him before her eyes went to her mentor in hopes of her evaluation of the performance. The rest of the group members followed suit as they all looked at Sofia expectantly.

Sofia then waved her hand as a signal for the others around her to be quiet. As soon as everyone quietened down, she started her evaluation. "The overall harmony was on point. However, you'll still need to improve your riffs and runs. Whether it's playing the notes a beat faster or slower, it would give a different feeling to your audience. Kellen, you'll be in charge of following up on this point in their training."

"I understand. I will focus their training in that aspect." Kellen nodded.

After a nod at Kellen, Sofia turned her attention to Tessa.

As Tessa knew her evaluation was next, her body inadvertently became tense.

“Although you’ve performed very well, there were several flaws you’ve made during the transition from the second theme to the third theme. By all rights, you should’ve been able to perform better than that.”

“It’s true that I didn’t handle that part well. I’ll pay more attention to my transitions in the future.” Tessa humbly accepted her mentor’s teachings.

The others who heard the conversation between Tessa and Sofia couldn’t help but sigh.

“I finally understand why Miss Sofia took Tessa under her wing.”

“Right? I already thought that it was a perfect performance, yet Sofia still said that it wasn’t good enough. It’s no wonder Sofia wouldn’t take us as her apprentices.”

“I’m just so jealous. Ah…”

Hearing these words, Tessa smiled as she came down from the stage with her violin in hand.

The moment they noticed her, Kellen, Jenny, and Daniela began singing Tessa’s praises.

“Your performance just now was amazing.”

“I’m very much looking forward to what you’ll be able to do when Miss Sofia’s done with your training.”

“My hunch tells me you’re gonna surpass me at some point.” Saying that, Kellen pretended to be nervous. “I’m done for. I’m suddenly feeling a sense of danger creeping up on me. If I’m surpassed by my junior, Miss Sofia would definitely have me undergo harsh training at that point.”

Although Tessa was amused by Kellen, she still needed to practice modesty. “I’m improving, but you are improving as well. So, it would be difficult for me to catch up with you, Kellen.”

As Sofia looked at her apprentices getting along with one another from the side, she discreetly nodded, as she knew that they had truly accepted Tessa as one of their own. Then, she turned her attention to the members of Group Six and said in an imposing tone, “As for the selection for the concertmaster, nothing has been set in stone yet.

However, all of you can see that you must at least have the same standard as the ones under me. As the final selection for the position would be in a month’s time, I hope all of you would work hard and improve yourself before then. Only those who are truly capable would be selected as the concertmaster!”

The members of Group Six immediately became invigorated by Sofia’s words, as they had all thought that Susan was to be the concertmaster. Her performance was much more seasoned when compared to theirs, after all. But now, they knew they still stood a chance to become the concertmaster.

“Nice, we’re still in the run for concertmaster.”

“For the sake of becoming a concertmaster as well as for my dreams, I’m gonna give it my all this month.”

“I’m going to work hard too. I’m going to increase my practice time by two hours a day, no, by at least four hours.”

Excited, everyone was planning their training schedules for the month.

However, among the excited members, only Susan was wearing a slightly twisted expression. All this while, she had thought that she would be the one in demand with her capabilities, regardless of where she went.

However, that couldn't be further from the truth, as she had been facing countless obstacles one after another the moment she entered Sofia Symphony. Not only that, but she was being selected as though she was just some common woman.

Always Been Yours Chapter 866

Chapter 866 Catching Up With Scott

Susan had never received such humiliation ever in her life. Yet, Tessa, who shared the same situation of having to start over in a new environment, was doing much better than her in every way. Not only was Tessa accepted as an apprentice of the industry's titan, but she was also sought after by many other people. Just who does she think she is?!

The more Susan thought about it, the more she felt that it was unfair. At this point, Susan was on the verge of going insane with the resentment she harbored against Tessa. However, she didn't dare expose even the slightest emotion she was experiencing, and could only clench her fist with all her strength. One day, I will have Tessa go through a humiliation a thousand times worse than this! She stared daggers at Tessa while determined to go through with her words.

Elsewhere, after Sofia finished giving her instructions, she gestured for the crowd to leave the room. When the audience left, she brought Tessa and the other apprentices out from the practice room as well.

After Sofia's group left the room, Tessa thought that the training for today was over, so she went over and greeted Sofia before returning home for Gregory's classes. However, she received a call from Scott not long after she had gotten into her car.

"I heard you're back in Vienna. Are you free to have a meal with me?"

"Sure, just give me the address." She accepted the invitation, as she thought back on how much of a help Scott was during the previous incident.

After Scott told her the address of a certain restaurant, he ended the call.

Sitting beside Tessa, Gregory asked puzzledly, "Mommy, are we not going home?"

“Not yet. I’ll be bringing you to meet an old friend of Mommy’s. He has helped me out a lot in the past.”

Not long after, the mother and son arrived at the restaurant.

Noticing the mother-son pair walking in, Scott became slightly stunned. Once Tessa took a seat along with Gregory, Scott looked at the latter and nodded as a greeting.

Tessa patted Gregory on his head and said with a smile, “Come on, Greg, say hello.”

“Hello, Mr. Brooks.” Gregory obediently greeted Scott with his black round eyes looking straight at him. He looks handsome, but still not as handsome as Daddy, Gregory thought. For some reason, he felt the way this man was looking at his mother was similar to how his father had looked at her. This won’t do. I must help Daddy protect Mommy.

Naturally, Scott couldn’t have known what the little child was thinking. After Tessa’s introduction, a gloomy look flashed in his eyes, but he soon pulled himself together and greeted Gregory gently. “Hello. Is it okay if I call you Greg?”

In fact, Gregory was rejecting the man inwardly, as he knew this bad man was eyeing his mother. However, as he was a well-behaved child, and couldn’t bear to put his mother in a tough position, he reluctantly nodded in the end.

During the meal, Scott asked with concern, “When did you come back?”

“It’s been some time since I came back,” Tessa replied with a smile.

Nodding, Scott continued, “I only knew you’ve returned when I went and met Hathaway two days ago.” He was immediately filled with regret after saying that, as he felt that talking about Hathaway would affect Tessa’s emotions.

Just as Scott was about to say something, Tessa asked with concern in her tone, “Is Miss Hathaway alright?”

“She is. She’s been fully focusing on the orchestra these days.” Seeing that Tessa didn’t seem to mind when Hathaway was brought up, Scott told her about what Hathaway’s situation was in general with Tessa nodding occasionally. However, he himself didn’t want to continue the topic after a while, so he changed the topic with a smile. “I heard that Sofia took you in as her apprentice a while ago?”

Tessa immediately knew that it was probably Hathaway who had told Scott the news, so she nodded and admitted to it. “It’s just as you heard.”

“So, how does it feel to have Sofia as your mentor?” With a concerned expression, Scott looked at Tessa.

Tessa knew Scott was worried about her. She smiled. “It’s going well. Although Miss Sofia is strict, I know she’s doing it for my sake.”

Noticing Tessa wore a relaxed expression, Scott heaved a sigh of relief as he said, “Glad to hear that. I’m relieved to see you’re taken in by someone amazing. Before this, I was worried you might not have a place to go, so I wanted to introduce you to a few orchestra groups.”

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Chapter 867 Upstaging the Host

“Thank you for your concern, Mr. Brooks.” Tessa felt grateful even at this moment, as she felt lucky to have a friend like Scott, who had offered his help countless times ever since they first met. With concern in her tone, she asked, “How are you doing lately?”

“Me? I’m still going around performing, so the same as ever.” Scott roughly explained what he had been up to, albeit slightly grudgingly. “It hasn’t even been two days, yet I have no choice but to get back on the road.”

Looking at the man’s reluctant expression, Tessa smiled and teased him. “Mr. Brooks, you’ll only make others jealous if they hear you complaining like that. Isn’t it a good thing to be able to have a performance?”

“Of course, it’s a good thing, but I’ll get tired if I perform so often.”

“So I guess you’re the type to be happy from the pain,” Tessa said with joy in her tone as she winked playfully at Scott.

He looked at Tessa’s smile that was as pleasant looking as a flower field in the spring, a hint of sentimentality flashing across his eyes. Sadly, Tessa didn’t take notice of Scott’s brief expression. After she was done joking around with him, she then wished him good luck from the bottom of her heart. “I hope your performances will go well.”

“Thank you.”

After that, the two of them discussed music as two normal friends. Throughout their discussion, Gregory behaved himself as he sat beside Tessa.

Some time passed when a customer entered the restaurant. It turned out to be Susan.

Back when Susan was still Kathleen, she was a regular customer of this restaurant. Today, she came here on a whim and did not expect to find Tessa and Scott here. Looking at the two of them happily talking with one another, she turned upset, a gloom look coming over her eyes. However, she managed to suppress her anger almost immediately before she went over to them with an eager smile.

“Miss Reinhart, Greg, what a coincidence. I didn’t expect to run into you here.”

Susan’s sudden appearance with a smile on her face startled both Tessa and Scott. The latter thought the girl had beautiful facial features, but that was the extent of his thoughts of her. Puzzled, he then looked at Tessa and asked, “This is...?”

“She’s Susan, a member of Sofia Symphony.” After Tessa introduced Susan, she introduced Scott as well. “This is Scott. He’s a friend of mine.” She thought that Susan would leave after she had finished her greetings, yet the latter did the contrary.

“I’ve heard of the famous Scott Brooks. I never expected Miss Reinhart to be friends with you, let alone to be able to meet you here like this. This makes me so happy.” Susan was like a fan girl as she looked at Scott adoringly.

Although he felt that Susan was coming off a little too strong, he still politely nodded. “Nice to meet you.”

Susan’s eyes lit up as she looked at the gentleman in front of her. “Mr. Brooks, since you’re a friend of Miss Reinhart’s, do you mind if I sit next to you and ask you some questions? There are some music-related problems I would like to consult with you.”

Hearing this, Tessa became embarrassed. Why is Susan acting so familiar with him? she thought.

On the other hand, Scott thought nothing of Susan's words and only moved aside to make space for her. "Well, have a seat." Naturally, the only reason he agreed was because of Tessa.

Susan saw through what Scott was thinking, but played dumb as she sat down in a cheerful manner. "Thank you, Mr. Brooks. You're just as kind-hearted as the rumors say you are." She looked at Scott with a face full of smiles, as though she was a fan girl who couldn't stop singing all kinds of praises of her idol.

Looking at how enthusiastic Susan was acting, Tessa felt an inexplicable sense that she was all out of sorts. Although she looked happy on the outside, her smile kept giving off a strange feeling, as though it was not the kind of smile that came from the bottom of her heart. However, since Scott had promised to accommodate her, Tessa chose not to speak up, even if she felt uncomfortable with it.

After taking her seat, Susan started asking Scott a bunch of questions in the manner where the voice of the guest overwhelmed that of the host without any regard if she was troubling Scott. "Mr. Brooks, I fell in love with 'Rondo Capriccioso' ever since I saw your performance in July. That's why I purposely went and learned how to play it, but there are several transpositions in the middle of the music that I can't seem to handle. Do you mind teaching me how to handle it?"

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Chapter 868 Keeping an Eye on Mommy

“I have a few kinds I need to work on ‘The Four Seasons.’ Do you mind teaching me?”

“Mr. Brooks, you’re really amazing. It feels like these are just minor problems when you explain them to me.”

For a period of time, there was only Susan’s excited voice at the dining table.

On the other hand, Scott had been patient with Susan, as she was an acquaintance of Tessa’s. However, it was Gregory who couldn’t take it any longer. He tugged at Tessa’s sleeve and whispered, “Mommy, this lady is so noisy.”

Tessa shared the same thought but could only endure it, as she didn’t think that Scott was feeling annoyed at Susan judging by his face. “Let’s just eat.” She gently stroked Gregory’s head, as though she was soothing the boy.

Although the mother and son were talking to each other very quietly, Susan had overheard their conversation. Nevertheless, she pretended to not have heard them and continued to talk to Scott. Naturally, this was all intentional on Susan’s part, as she didn’t want Tessa to be talking with Scott so much. However, unbeknownst to her, her actions here had left a bad impression on Scott.

Throughout their meal, Tessa and Scott became silent while Susan continued to carry the conversation herself. Later that evening, they left the restaurant after finishing their meal. Ignoring Susan, Scott smiled at Tessa and said, “Come, I’ll send you and Greg home.”

Tessa didn’t reject his offer, as she could see Scott was taking the opportunity to leave Susan behind.

As she watched the car gradually disappear from her sight, Susan, who was left behind, gritted her teeth in anger. Curses. Whether it's in the past or now, Scott has never thought highly of me. Naturally, both Tessa and Scott knew not of what Susan was thinking.

When the car arrived at their destination, Tessa got out of the car with Gregory in tow and said their goodbyes. "Goodbye, Mr. Brooks. I'm really sorry for troubling you back at the restaurant. I never knew Susan to be someone who would act overly familiar with a stranger."

"It's fine." Scott never thought much of the people that he didn't care about.

With a nod, Tessa then brought Gregory back into the villa. Just as the mother-son pair was preparing to wash up upstairs, a video call came from Nicholas. "Have you two eaten yet?"

"We have." Then, Tessa told Nicholas about the meeting she had with Scott.

Nicholas only nodded as he listened to Tessa and gave not much reaction.

Standing beside Tessa, Gregory pouted. "Daddy, there's something wrong with you. Why aren't you getting jealous when you found out Mommy was eating with another man?"

Listening to Gregory, Tessa wasn't sure whether to be laughing or to be in tears. "Why would Daddy be jealous? Don't try to start something here, young man. Besides, you were there watching me too, weren't you? So, there's nothing for Daddy to be jealous about." She patted the back of the boy's head in an attempt to get him to behave.

After thinking about it briefly, Gregory accepted his mother's reasoning and nodded fervently. "That sounds about right." Then, he patted his chest and assured the man on the phone. "Daddy, don't worry. I'll help you keep an eye on Mommy."

Tessa restrained herself from laughing out once more.

On the other hand, Nicholas went along with the boy as he nodded and said, “Good. I’ll be counting on you.”

“Okay, no problem.” Gregory became excited, as though he had received some sort of mission from his father.

With a smile, Nicholas quickly took the chance to send the little boy away, so that he could have his wife all to himself. Unaware of his father’s ulterior motive, Gregory left with a spring in his step.

As Tessa tried her best in stifling her laughter when she saw how cheerful Gregory was, Nicholas said with a smile, “If you want to laugh, then just laugh. You don’t have to hold it in.”

Unable to hold back any longer, Tessa immediately burst into laughter.

Nicholas listened to his wife’s joyous laughter, his eyes gradually filling with tender sentiments.

After a while, Tessa had her fill of laughter and asked knowingly, “Why did you send Greg away?”

“Because I want to be alone with you,” Nicholas said lovingly and sweetly.

Touched by Nicholas’ words, Tessa felt as though she was bathed in a pot full of honey.

After the two of them shared a moment of intimacy, Nicholas then asked with concern, “Was my baby on her best behavior? Let me see her.”

Always Been Yours Chapter 869

Chapter 869 Tessa's Baby

“My belly is still flat. What can you even see?” Even though Tessa said that, she still lifted her clothes. As she was of a thin body stature, her stomach was flat even though the baby was already three months old. No one would be able to tell that she was pregnant looking at her like this.

Looking at Tessa's flat stomach in slight disappointment, Nicholas said, “When will she get bigger?”

Tessa was stunned by Nicholas' question, for the images that she had once buried deep inside her mind came floating up. In truth, she was with a child a few years ago. The thought of that child immediately had Tessa turning gloomy and depressed.

Naturally, Nicholas noticed Tessa's change in mood and knew what plagued her mind. However, he knew that this wasn't the time for her to come clean with her past, as doing so meant that Tessa could no longer pursue her dreams without any distractions as she was doing now. With such thoughts in mind, Nicholas spoke out to interrupt Tessa's thoughts. “Why did you suddenly stop talking?”

“I was thinking how many months it will take for my belly to grow.” Coming back from her thoughts, Tessa felt guilty, as she lied to Nicholas for the first time.

Pretending not to have noticed the change in Tessa, Nicholas asked, “So, how many months do you think it will take?”

“I'm guessing it would probably be around the fourth month for my pregnancy to show.” The last time she was pregnant, it took about four months for her pregnancy to show, so she thought it would be the same this time as well.

Noticing that Tessa was not as enthusiastic as she was before, he knew that Tessa still felt depressed over her past, so he thought of ways to divert her attention. “If it’s the fourth month, then it’s almost time. Do you think the baby will start interacting with us? Should I start educating the baby by then?” he asked ignorantly with full anticipation for the baby’s arrival.

Sure enough, Nicholas was successful in distracting Tessa from her thoughts. Looking at his wife who had her smile back, he heaved a sigh of relief. “It’s getting late. You should get some sleep now.” He coaxed Tessa to bed.

Tessa agreed with a nod, then ended their video call for tonight.

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Elsewhere, Nicholas placed his phone down and was about to continue working when a knock came from the door.

“Nicholas, how about going back home and having dinner with our parents tonight?” Kieran asked as soon as he entered the room.

Nicholas agreed with a nod.

That evening, in the dining room of the Sawyers’ mansion.

The two brothers accompanied their parents for dinner. As Kieran was the mood maker for the evening, the atmosphere wasn’t so bad.

During the meal, Stefania suddenly said, “It’ll be Christmas soon. Will Miss Reinhart be joining us then? We should invite her over to have dinner.”

Nicholas paused upon hearing his mother’s suggestion and inadvertently smiled. He knew that his mother had accepted Tessa into the family, but... “We should forget about it. Since she’s pregnant now, it’s better for her to stay put. Instead, I’ll be going to them to spend Christmas together.”

Stefania became unhappy for a brief moment after hearing Tessa wouldn't be back for Christmas, as that meant that she wouldn't be able to see Gregory. But what Nicholas said made sense, as it would be tiring for a pregnant woman to travel back and forth. In the end, she couldn't make any retort for the sake of the baby in Tessa. "Then you should take good care of the two of them when you're there with them."

Understanding his mother's instructions, Nicholas nodded.

Just then, Tobias remembered that Nicholas had quarreled with Remus, so he said, "When you have time later, you should go back to Sawyer Residence and visit your grandpa." He knew that the two of them were still piqued with each other ever since their argument, so he couldn't help but nag at Nicholas. "No matter what your grandpa has done, know that he has only done so for the sake of the family, as well as your own. So, please don't argue with him. Since his mindset is of the older generation, you'll need to give him time to accept it."

Although Nicholas said nothing, he still acquiesced to the matter.

After the meal, Nicholas asked Edward to send two cans of quality tea leaves to him before he took them along to visit Remus.

Always Been Yours Chapter 870

Chapter 870 Chess and Tea

In the Sawyer Residence, Remus came downstairs to find Nicholas sitting on the sofa. With a snort, he said coldly, “What are you doing here?”

“Still angry?” Nicholas looked sideways at Remus without paying mind to the latter’s tone. With a wry smile, he said indifferently, “I was thinking of inviting you to a game of chess. Also, I’ve asked someone to bring this can of tea leaves over as well, as I’ve heard that it’s a new product that has a nice fragrance. But, since you’re still angry, then I’d better come back another day instead.”

Just as Nicholas was about to get up and leave, Remus said in slight annoyance, “Hold it. Did I tell you to leave?”

Here, a gleam flashed in Nicholas’ eyes. He then turned around and feigned ignorance. “What other orders do you have for me?”

Looking at Remus acting so proudly, Nicholas smiled as he handed it over to him.

Then, Remus opened one of the cans and knew that the quality of these tea leaves was impeccable, as a refreshing fragrance escaped the moment the can was opened. “Well, at least you still have the heart to do this.” Feeling satisfied, he closed the can with a faint smile on his face before he handed it off to Ian, who had been standing by the side. “Go and make a cup of this tea. As for the kid, just a cup of plain water is fine for him. Oh yes, bring me my chess set as well. I’ll be thoroughly teaching this kid a lesson tonight.”

Smiling, Ian left and did as ordered. Soon after, he came back with Remus’ tea and chess set. Naturally, he didn’t dare to serve Nicholas a cup of plain water as Remus had ordered, as he knew that his master did not mean his words.

And so, Nicholas accompanied Remus in the living room. The two played chess while enjoying the tea the former had brought. Watching how harmonious the two of them were, Ian, who was standing at the side, became relieved. Although Remus had not said anything recently, he knew that Remus had missed his grandson very dearly and had regretted the words he spoke on an impulse that day.

That night, Nicholas played countless matches of chess with Remus, who had never once lost the smile on his face through it all. It was only when it was time for Remus to rest did Nicholas leave the place. Throughout the night, the two of them had intentionally avoided bringing up Tessa, so there wasn't any unpleasantness between the two.

In the following days, Tessa brought Gregory along when she had her daily practice with the orchestra members. In the afternoon, she would send him back home for his lessons while she took lessons about compositions at Simon's house. As she was poor in many aspects since she had not studied in a professional school before, she took Simon's lessons seriously and diligently. Fortunately, she had talent in music. Adding to the fact that her memory was amazing, her improvement was obvious to see.

Simon had taken notice of her improvement as well, which was why today, he wrote several notes on a paper and handed it to Tessa. "I want you to compose a tune out of these notes and give it to me before this time tomorrow."

Tessa knew immediately that Simon was testing her about what she had learned, so she nodded in response and accepted the task.

That same night, Gregory knew that his mother was going to be busy composing a song, so he tried not to bother her during this time.

In the study room, Tessa was looking up information at her desk while composing the tune at a speed that was faster than before. Later that evening, Nicholas gave her a video call and found out that she had accepted Simon's assignment, so he accompanied her in silence.

Time passed, and it was midnight when Tessa finished her assignment. “Nicholas, I’m done.” Happily, she took the score and shared it with Nicholas.

As Nicholas looked at his wife through his phone, he felt sorry for Tessa, as she was clearly fatigued, albeit smiling joyfully. Hence, he said, “Since you’re done, you should get some rest now. You still have to go for practice tomorrow.”

True enough, Tessa was tired after focusing on her assignment for so long, so she nodded in assent and ended the call before going to sleep.