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Upon hearing those words, Tessa stepped to the side and said, "Why don't you come inside first? Greg has fallen asleep."

Nicholas nodded. "Thanks."

With her consent, he walked into her bedroom and saw Gregory sleeping soundly. Thus, he was in no hurry to bring Gregory home. He walked out of the bedroom and lowered his voice. "Do you have anything to eat? I've not eaten anything since lunch, so I'm having some gastric issues."

She frowned slightly when she heard those words. This man is torturing his stomach again.

During her stay at his home previously, she often saw Andrew preparing some gastric medicine for him. Andrew mentioned that he rarely ate his meals on time, so he had ruined his stomach. He sure doesn't take care of himself when he's busy.

Fortunately, she had some gastric medicine at home. Quickly taking out the medicine box, she found the gastric medicine and poured him a glass of water. At the same time, she couldn't stop herself from asking, "Regardless of how important work is, is it more important than your health ?"

He didn't look disgruntled despite being criticized. However, his gastric issues caused his lips to turn pale and his expression to become unsightly. He leaned back against the sofa after taking the medicine and closed his eyes to rest.

Looking at him in this state, she couldn't help having complicated feelings. It was way past dinner timer. Besides, greasy meals did not suit those with gastric issues. It was better if he had something light and bland instead.

"Are you okay with noodles?" she asked softly.

"Yeah, thanks." He nodded.

She went straight to the kitchen and cooked a simple bowl of noodles for him.

When Gregory went to sleep, Timothy returned to his room and prepared to work. Although it had been fun to play with Gregory for a few hours, it did not change the fact that he still had work to do. He was writing the codes for a brand-new software when he heard some noises coming from the outside all of a sudden. It sounded like they had guests, so he came out to investigate.

He was surprised to see Nicholas lying on the sofa. "President Sawyer? Why are you here?"

Nicholas opened his eyes and massaged his temples, looking like he was feeling unwell. Only then did he answer the question. "I came to pick Greg up. Thank you for helping to take care of my child today."

Timothy waved his hand dismissively. "It's nothing. Young Master Gregory is very well-behaved. He doesn't make a fuss, so we like him very much. It's not a big deal even if he stays here overnight. You didn't need to come all this way to pick him up. But, why were you so late?"

Nicholas replied, "Something came up in the company. I had just finished dealing with it."

Judging from Nicholas' tired face-seemingly in poor health-and the sounds in the kitchen, Timothy guessed that his sister was probably making something for Nicholas to eat at the moment. So, he said, "In that case, you don't need to go back after you finish eating. Why don't you rest here for the night instead? Going back and forth is very tiring after all. Besides, Young Master Gregory is already asleep. There's no need to wake him up."

At this time, Tessa walked over with the noodles. "Eat something first."

She noticed that Nicholas was massaging his knee, whereupon a scene from the past flashed through her mind. She vaguely recalled seeming something similar back at the hospital. At the time, Nicholas explained that he had injured his leg before. As a result, his leg would hurt if he was overly busy or if it was a rainy day.

Andrew would often arrange acupuncture appointments for him in the past, but it was likely that the appointments had been put on hold recently because he was far too busy. His condition must have flared up again today,

She added, "Just stay here tonight. You probably have not received acupuncture in a long time. I will perform acupuncture for you after you eat. You should also take a medicinal bath while you're at it."

"Okay," he replied lightly.

When Timothy looked at the natural interaction between these two people, he couldn't help feeling that something was strange. How does Tess know that Nicholas needed acupuncture? Not to mention how naturally she offered to help him perform acupuncture! Didn't she clearly state that she would distance herself from the father-and-son pair and slowly remove herself from their lives? But, it looks like that is not the case. Before he could ask any of those questions, she interrupted the barrage of questions in his heart. "Tim, can you get me the medicinal herbs and needles, please ?"

After being interrupted, he couldn't bring himself to ask anything anymore despite all the questions in his heart. Hence, he nodded and obediently returned to the bedroom to bring the items she had asked for.

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After Nicholas finished eating his noodles, he went straight to take a medicinal bath. Half an hour later, he came out of the bath and changed into Timothy's clothes. A faint scent of medical herbs that calmed the nerves and aided sleep lingered around him.

"Come here and lie down," Tessa immediately said when she noticed that he was out of the bath.

He nodded at those words. Striding over to the sofa, he obediently lay down.

Then, she turned to Timothy. "You lie down too. I'll perform acupuncture on your legs as well."

Timothy had been running back and forth recently to settle the company's affairs, which placed great strain on his legs. As a result, his legs would hurt from time to time. It was just that he never said anything.

However, that did not mean she did not notice. She had always been rather observant. For that reason, she had noticed his condition a long time ago. It was just that he would definitely have refused even if she offered to perform acupuncture on him just because he wanted to prevent her from becoming exhausted.

It just so happened that Nicholas was also here today. There was no difference between performing acupuncture on one person or two, so she figured he would not refuse. As expected, he massaged his legs and immediately nodded in agreement. "Thanks, Tess."

The two large men lay down next to her, one on each side. They left themselves to her mercy without the slightest hint of complaint.

Because she had helped Timothy with his rehabilitation in the past, she learned the art of acupuncture. The practice accumulated over the years had allowed her skills to mature over time. She located the pressure points, slid the needle in, and then pulled it back out. All the time, her movements were as smooth as flowing water. She did not make any mistakes.

By the time she finished performing acupuncture on both of them, it was very late.

The two men felt the fatigue in their bodies gradually fading away after enduring the acupuncture treatment. The tension of the day finally relaxed and went away. As a result, they both fell deeply asleep as soon as they returned to Timothy's bedroom.

The next day, Nicholas woke up feeling extremely refreshed. All the discomfort from the day before was gone without a trace.

On the other hand, Gregory woke up and discovered that he was still at Tessa's house. Not only that, but his beloved Miss Tessa was also sleeping next to him. He was extremely satisfied. The days where I can wake up and see Miss Tessa immediately are the best! However, he was stunned to see his father. He did not know that his father had arrived last night. Why did Daddy appear at Miss Tessa's place so early in the morning? Is he here to take me away ?No! I haven't spent enough time with her!

The moment he saw the look in his father's eyes, he became certain. Daddy is here to pick me up. It looks like I won't be able to stay here any longer.

Gregory slowly put on his shoes after breakfast and gave his father a pleading look. When Tessa was not paying attention, he whispered, "Daddy, can I not leave ?"

Nicholas shook his head.

"But..." Gregory was reluctant to leave, so he wanted to negotiate with Nicholas.

Nicholas coldly said, "Your actions will cause her stress."

"Alright, then." Gregory finally nodded and agreed to leave upon hearing that he would cause trouble for Tessa. That time when she had ignored him for a few days had been very torturous. She might hide away again if I keep pestering her. If that happens, I might never see her again even if I wanted to.

Tessa did not remain idle after everybody else in the house had departed. After giving it much thought, she decided to return to the orchestra. Even if I can't make any violent movements at the moment, it should be fine if I played some gentler pieces.

By the time Tessa arrived at the orchestra, everybody had already begun to enter a state of intense training. The receptionist at the front desk was slightly astonished to see her there. "Tessa? Why are you here?"

She smiled. "I wanted to come and practice."

"But, the name list for the performance this time has already been set. Wasn't it

decided that Queenie will be the assistant concertmaster?" the receptionist asked puzzledly.

She lowered her eyes. "I know. I came to join the practice for the sake of future performances."

Although she could not participate in the performance this time, it didn't change the fact that it was painful for her to miss this opportunity. However, Trevor was right she would still have other opportunities in the future. It's been so long since I last practiced. At this rate, my skills may become rusty, and I might really lose my position. Then, even in the future...

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That was why Tessa insisted on coming back to train even though she was not fully healed. Even if she just played a gentle piece, it would still help to stabilize her techniques somewhat.

When the receptionist heard those words, an awkward expression appeared on her face. She paused for a moment before saying, "Tessa, the truth is... Queenie is not just serving as the assistant concertmaster for this performance. It has been decided in the orchestra that this position will be hers from now on." Tessa was shocked to hear those words. Even though she could understand every single word the receptionist was saying, the words suddenly sounded like a foreign language when strung together in a sentence. Thus, she paused for a while before she raised her head to look at the receptionist in confusion. "The position will be hers from now on ? Winnie, what do you mean by that ?"

"Tessa... please don't be so upset. I'm just the receptionist. I don't know why the orchestra issued that directive either," the receptionist said softly while patting Tessa on the shoulder.

Knowing that it was useless to question the receptionist any further, Tessa nodded and went to look for Trevor.

Trevor was astonished to see Tessa, and his expression immediately became strange. – He spoke with his guilty conscience weighing down on him. "Tessa? Why aren't you recuperating at home? Why did you come here?"

She replied, "I came to train. But, I heard that Queenie was officially appointed as the assistant concertmaster. Didn't you say that she was just a temporary replacement for this performance?"

Upon hearing those words, his expression changed again. He avoided her gaze and did not dare to look her in the eye. Even his manner of speech became hesitant. "Uh... Tessa, please listen to me. It's not that we don't want to appoint you. But."

"But what ?" she immediately asked.

He gritted his teeth and answered straightforwardly, "This is the decision of the higher-ups. They claimed that you are not suitable for the orchestra and chose Queenie to take your place. I'm just a lowly employee. I don't have the power to make such decisions. So... please don't make things difficult for me."

She was completely stunned by those words. Does that mean I no longer have a chance? Ne that can't be. It wasn't easy for me to climb to that position. Just because I lost my first chance to perform doesn't mean that I will never have another chance to perform in the future.

She looked at him beggingly. "Mr. Oswald, you know how I am. It's not like I can't do anything for the orchestra. Please, give me another chance. Just one more chance."

He looked at her with a troubled expression. "It's not that I don't want to help you, but I really don't have the power to do anything."

Even if he put aside the fact that he trained her himself and spoke strictly in terms of talent within the orchestra, she was far more talented than Queenie. He was reluctant to see her leave just based on this point alone. Not only was she young, but she was also more hardworking than most people. Comparatively, she had more potential. She would surely become a remarkable performer in the future. It would be a pity to lose such a promising talent.

He had already planned everything in advance. After this performance, he was going to ask Queenie to step down and return the position to Tessa. However, Remus suddenly came to visit him last night.

The first directive the Sawyer Group issued when they bought over the orchestra was to abandon Tessa Reinhart. Otherwise, the orchestra would cease to exist.

This orchestra was his life. On the other hand, Tessa was simply a junior that he had : high expectations of. He knew where his priorities lay.

Therefore, he had no choice but to sacrifice Tessa for the sake of the entire orchestra.

He shook his head and said to her, "Tessa, I'm really sorry. You should go home."

Trevor thought back to the past. At that time, Nicholas had stood up for her and proclaimed that she was one of his people. He even went so far as to entrust the care of Gregory to her. Furthermore, he didn't say a single negative word to her when Gregory went missing and personally took care of her in the hospital. Therefore, it was unexpected to see how he suddenly turned on her and became so hostile instead.

Trevor couldn't help feeling sad for Tessa. Although he was very puzzled as to why the Sawyer Group was targeting her, now was not the time to speak of such matters. Besides, he was afraid that asking about this would only rub salt into her wounds. After all, nobody wanted to be ridiculed for being abandoned after losing their job.

Perhaps, the care that President Sawyer showed her previously was nothing more than a game among the wealthy.

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The affairs of the Sawyer Family were not something 'revor could meddle in. Therefore, he kept silent regarding that matter. He planned to comfort Tessa a bit more before asking her to leave. It would not be good for her tò stay here for too

long.

Before he could speak a word, a sharp female voice interrupted him. That person said, "Tessa, you came! Why didn't you let us know in advance?"

Tessa looked up. It was Queenie!

Although she rarely interacted with Queenie, they worked in the same orchestra, so it was only natural that she was familiar with Queenie's character. Not wanting to speak to Queenie, she simply nodded indifferently in response.

Unfortunately, Queenie had no intention of letting Tessa off the hook just like that. She had been rehearsing in the training room earlier but came here specifically to laugh at Tessa when she heard that Tessa was here.

She laughed and uttered, "Tessa, to be honest, it's impossible for you to be the assistant concertmaster with your qualifications. Your violin skills are only mediocre at best, so please don't disgrace us. Not long ago, I heard that you were bragging about how you obtained this position because you were favored by Mr. Oswald. He feels too bad to say anything, so I will speak for him instead. He doesn't value you at: all. He simply felt that you worked too hard, and you wouldn't understand your value unless he gave you a chance to run into a wall."

"Queenie, stop that."

After watching how Queenie triumphantly mocked Tessa, the people who came out with Queenie couldn't bear listening any longer and frowningly interrupted her. Her words were too much. Who among those in the orchestra did not know that Queenie was no match for Tessa, both in terms of behavior or violin skills?

Tessa treated everybody equally, regardless of whether she served as the assistant concertmaster or not. She was so good-natured that it was unbelievable.

On the other hand, Queenie began throwing her weight around as soon as she came to power. She constantly undermined and oppressed the others to establish her position.

The truth was that everybody was dissatisfied with the orchestra's arrangements. But,

what could they say? If they raised an objection, they would probably be forced to leave together with Tessa. It was not easy for any one of them to come this far, so there was no way they would act so foolishly.

Now that things had come to this, they could neither speak up on Tessa's behalf nor openly go against Queenie. All they could do was try their best to help Tessa by stopping such unpleasant words from being uttered.

Tessa couldn't care less at this point. Her heart was overflowing with faint disappointment. Even so, she refused to give up. Since Mr. Oswald can't speak up for me and it's the directive of the higher-ups, then I won't trouble Mr. Oswald. I'll go straight to the higher-ups. I want to know just who exactly is targeting me.

She said, "Mr. Oswald, I respect your decision. Nevertheless, can you tell me who is behind the acquisition of the orchestra? I want to speak with them myself."

To her surprise, Trevor's expression froze when he heard the question.

He had no idea how to tell her. If it was anybody but the Sawyer Group, then he would have had no qualms about telling her. Unfortunately, it just so happened to be the Sawyer Group. It would be a huge shock to her if I told her the truth.

Queenie smiled sweetly. "No way! Tessa, don't you know the identity of our new owner? Mr. Oswald, didn't you tell her?"

His expression darkened. He shot a look at her, indicating for her to shut up:

However, she ignored him completely and bluntly said, "Since Mr. Oswald refuses to tell you, then I'll tell you. Our new owner is the Sawyer Group. So, do you understand now?"

Upon hearing the words 'Sawyer Group, Tessa immediately froze in shock. She never imagined that the person who wanted to terminate her... would be the Sawyer Group.

That is to say, the directive to replace me and force me to leave the Heavenly Chorus Orchestra was issued by Nicholas? Or, is it somebody else within the Sawyer Family? Or, is it Stefania's doing? I don't understand. Why is the Sawyer Family doing this to me? Is it because I deliberately ignored Greg and made him upset? Or, is it because I've gotten close to Greg recently? Is it really because of such a minor and insignificant reason? Did the Sawyer Family spare no expense to acquire the orchestra just to drive me away and make me lose my job?

THAT CAN BE ARRANGED NOVEL ALTERNATIVE