Sweet Revenge My Sweet Life With You! Chapter 91 Childhood (3)

"Well, I guess that's how I became a part of the Lein Family." Ayami touched the blue flower growing out in the garden of the Lein Family.

Ayami and Celine were currently taking a walk in the garden. It was getting stuffy inside so they decided to take a walk while Ayami was telling her past.

On her first day, Little Ayami was asked to rest in her room. A servant told her that she would greet her other relatives in the evening.

When evening came, the servants dressed her up and led her to the function hall.

Once again, their gazes fell on her, making her feel intimidated. The room had more people compared to earlier.

There were a few kids around her age, the others were older than her. The servant escorted her to a table where the patriarch was seated, along with a few important-looking people and a teenager, who seemed indifferent.

Oujiro glanced at her before turning his gaze away. The others also ignored her, like she doesn't exist.

'Look, that's her.'

'I wonder why the patriarch brought her here.'

A few people whispered to each other. Ayami looked down, she fidgeted with her fingers. Her lips were quivering for a bit as she whispered to herself.

'Mommy... Daddy...'

After a few minutes, the door to the function hall closed. Oujiro stood up and cleared his throat.

"Now that everyone is here, I would like to introduce our new family member." Oujiro dragged her up to the chair to stand up. The family members clapped, except for the indifferent youth. He let her go abruptly, making her lose her balance and almost falling down to the floor. Luckily, she didn't fall down, instead she sat down unintentionally.

Ayami saw with her own eyes as the old man grabbed a tissue and wiped his hands.

Ayami lowered her head. All she wanted was to go back home, where her mother and father was.

Why did she need to stay here?

It was something she could not understand.

"Let's make a toast for our new relative. Let's enjoy ourselves today."

Oujiro raised his glass and toasted with the others. This went on for a while. Ayami felt bored. Nobody was talking to her, much less approach her.

They were avoiding her like she had some kind of virus and it was making Ayami feel glum.

Meanwhile, the youth, which the others deemed as the heir, remained seated. Apparently his name was Shun. He was her cousin.

Among the others his age, he really stood out, making him suitable to be the heir.

Shun stood up and quietly left the function hall. Oujiro didn't say anything about it.

Seeing that, Ayami decided to follow him. She stood up and followed after him; nobody stopped her.

Shun went to the garden with Ayami following behind him.

"How long are you going to follow me?" Shun asked in a cold voice, making Ayami flinch.

"I... I am not following you!" Ayami pouted and continued to explain. "We are just going in the same direction."

"Whatever." Shun turned away and continued his walk. It's not his business whether she follows him or not, as long as she doesn't do anything like assassination, which was a common occurrence in this household. He experienced it so many times that he could not count.

Soon, this child will also experience that. He hoped that she would survive a month here or maybe it was better for her to die than to live in this hellhole.

Shun stopped right in front of the greenhouse built inside the garden. This was the place where his most beloved aunt liked to stay. This was also the place where they often played around.

"Kid." Shun turned around, the little girl was still following him. "If you have any big troubles that you can't handle yourself, come to me. I'm always around here at this time. Do you understand?"

Ayami nodded her head.

"Good. Now, then, I'll give you a test whether you're suitable for the Lein family or not. Go back to your room safely. That is your first test."

"Okay." Ayami nodded her head even though she only understood a little bit of it. But first, she asked for directions before she embarked on a journey to her room.

Naïve Ayami didn't know that there were many dangers lurking around the shadows. If one was not careful, it would cost their life.

The first one, she luckily avoided stepping on the trap that was placed on the pavestone. The second one, she tripped on a tripwire, due to her small stature, she managed to avoid getting stabbed by the sharp knives that flew out of nowhere. The same thing happened over and over again until she reached her room.

Perhaps, this is what you call a beginner's luck.

Of course, Shun was watching her from the shadows. He was amused seeing her manage to avoid all those deadly traps with luck.

That is to say, she successfully completed her first test.

Ayami spent her night alone. She missed her mother and father. She wondered how long it would take to see them again.

And so, she drifted to sleep while thinking about that.

The next day, she was awoken by the servants, asking her to prepare for the day. She was told that she was to attend a private class—exclusive only to the children of the Lein—from a renowned teacher, along with cousins about her age.

She was lead to a room that was set up like a classroom. There were four children beside her.

"Hm. It seems like we have a new student joining us. Would you introduce yourself, young miss?"

"Um... I'm Ayami... Lein." She felt uncomfortable saying a last name different from her parents.

"Very good, now sit down."

Ayami sat down on the empty seat. The teacher took out a test paper and started passing it to the students.

"Now, before I begin my lessons. I would like to know your capabilities. Start answering the questionnaires. You have 10 minutes." Of course, she already knew the other's capabilities, she just doesn't want the new student to be left out.

Ayami looked at the test papers. She could not understand any of it. She lost all her colors, knowing that she will fail.

10 minutes passed in the blink of an eye.

The teacher collected the papers. That was when she noticed the blank papers from Ayami. The teacher frowned as she asked Ayami.

"Young miss Ayami, why did you pass a blank test paper?"

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Ayami pursed her lips and looked down, her cheeks were flushed red. She could not bear to look at the teacher's eyes, which was filled with disbelief and scorn.

The other children were giggling to themselves.

"Young miss Ayami, this... this isn't even hard. This is just an evaluation test, so why did hand a blank paper? We're you nervous?"

"I-I…"

Ayami could not answer her question. Her face lost their colors. The teacher let out a sigh.

It was true that it was easy for those who were born in the Lein Family and the adults, but for Ayami, an outsider who was just brought in, she could not answer them. Any normal child would not be able to answer it.

Those who were born in the Lein Family were brought up to be an elite. Education starts at the age of four, whether you're a genius or not. Of course, those geniuses receive harsher education.

An evaluation exam will be held once a child turns six. Those who did not pass will receive punishment while those who got top scores will be rewarded.

By the age of eight, the children should have finished the primary education. By the age of sixteen, all must have finished tertiary education.

For Ayami, who was not a genius and just a normal child, she wasn't able to keep up with the Lein's strict education. So she, who was deemed as a failure, was bound to suffer while living under the Lein's.

"I'm sorry, young miss Ayami but you cannot join today's class. I'll talk to the patriarch about this. For now, please go back."

The teacher kindly said but her eyes could not hide the disappointment and contempt. The other children whispered to themselves which Ayami could hear.

'Pfft. This test was so easy and yet she could not even answer it.'

'What an idiot.'

'I'll tell my mom about this.'

Ayami weakly stood up and left the room. Her legs were wobbling as she walked out but she could not pass out here because, by instinct, they would look down on her even more. She walked back to her room in a daze, still luckily avoiding all the traps set around the whole place.

When she arrived in her room, her legs gave and that was when her dam of tears broke.

"Wuu... Mommy... Daddy..."

She curled up into a ball and stayed like that for the whole day, not even bothering to eat.

Then, the time came when she was called by the patriarch. When she arrived in his room, she bore his contempt that was obvious from his eyes.

"What a useless child." He loudly muttered for her to hear. Oujiro took a quick look on her face.

Except for the hair and eye color, Yue and this child looked the same. And that was what irritates him.

"You're clearly her child, but why are you polar opposites?"

Oujiro shook his head. It doesn't matter.

"Have her study the basics first and slowly increase the difficulty." Oujiro ordered his assistant before dismissing the both of them.

However, after a year of studying, her results was unsatisfactory in the eyes of the elders, especially the patriarch. So her education became harsher and stricter.

Just like the other Lein children, she lost her childhood. She spent her days studying.

Sometimes, she would sneak out and go to the garden to meet up with Shun whom she treats as her big brother—to ask for advice. Shun treated her like a little sister but what he could do for her was limited as he, too, is controlled by the patriarch. He gave her advices on what to do and what not to do.

On her way back, she overheard the elders talking about her mother. That was when she found out that she no longer had a mother.

Luckily, Shun was there to send her back and comforted her. Seeing her look sad, he decided to go to the patriarch to ask for permission to visit Ayami's father.

Oujiro approved on a condition. He was to leave and study abroad while broadening his connections.

Shun took Ayami to her father. Though, he hates him to the core for taking away his aunt, he, at least greeted him and showed basic manners.

On their visit, Ayami saw her father's state, which Dennis would obviously not show to his daughter. Of course, Dennis was surprised by their sudden arrival.

To think that her father was suffering, Ayami decided to hug him and show her affections. She cried and hugged him tightly.

"Why are you here?" Dennis asked in disbelief. "Did you get permission?"

"Of course, we did. We don't want to suffer from any punishment after all." Shun replied.

"Enjoy your reunion. I'll come pick her up later." Shun left them alone.

The two spent their day together. They decided to enjoy the short time they had.

Soon, Shun came back and picked her up like he said. Ayami, though reluctant, said goodbye and left.

Then the day came when Shun was sent to abroad to further his studies and also deepen his connections to the foreigners. This time, Ayami was truly alone with the pack of hyenas waiting to devour her.

Although the elders did not know why the patriarch still did not kick her out, the chance of her becoming the favorite of the patriarch was there, and their resources that was supposed to be theirs would go to Ayami as what happened when he pampered the 'princess'.

The elders saw her as a threat and so, they schemed against an innocent child.

One day, someone broke the patriarch's favorite vase—a gift from Yue. A child pointed to Ayami and blamed her. The others started testifying. The more they spoke, the more paler Ayami became, making her look like she was guilty.

"Lock her to the punishment room for three days to reflect! Do not give her food or drinks! Those who are caught doing that will receive a worse punishment." Oujiro ordered in a thundering voice.

"I-I... I didn't do it! It wasn't me!"

Even when she cried, begged, and screamed, the servants dragged her away with no expression on their faces. If there was, that would be annoyance.

There, on the punishment room—a place where there are no lights or anything— Ayami was locked there for three days.

On the first day, she was crying and screaming for help. On the second day, she calmed down and completely became quiet. On the third day, her personality had a great change.

This incident made her realize how cruel they can be and nobody will be on her side. After she came out, there was no more expression on her face.

"Have you reflected on yourself?"

"Yes."

"Good. Leave then. I hope there is no more next time."

Similar incidents occurred again and again. Slowly, she became accustomed to it and started to counter their schemes.

The time came when the children was taught combat training, martial arts and assassination arts. Ayami was able to complete the trainings without getting injured. There was also a possibility of them being killed due to the intensity of the training.

It only went on for a year. Others were free to continue on their own or focus on their studies. Of course, most would continue as it would be beneficial. Ayami chose to occasionally train herself.

Compared to her mother's life while living here as a princess, her life was the polar opposite.

Ayami became smarter and twisted. She could not trust anyone anymore. Emotions disappeared as time went on.

Even Marie, who became her servant after she turned eight, was someone she did not completely trust.

From the bright and cheerful child to the cold and indifferent teenager, her experiences made her like that. As she aged, the more colder her heart became.

Perhaps that was the one of the reason why she acted like that in her past life. Irrational and twisted from the jealousy of the others experiencing love, which she could not have.

When she turned sixteen, that was when she was allowed to leave the place but she was still bound to the Lein Family.

"Wow, that was a really long story. Long story short, your mother died, you got captured by the Lein Family, then you were trained to be an elite. After all that, you finally left, had a reunion with your father and met your step-family, and enrolled in the academy where I met you. No wonder you were so cold."

Celine clicked her tongue and shook her head. "If not for me getting caught by your grandfather, I would not have known this and continue to be your tool." Celine looked at Ayami and sighed. "It's hard to break down the wall of an Ice Queen."

"Who's an Ice Queen?" Ayami pouted and left her behind.

"Ah, wait for me!" Celine followed after her with a chuckle.. They ran around the garden like they went back to their childhood.

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Wifey

"It's nice to see you two getting along." A man said after seeing the two friends running around like children. He was sitting on the bench of the garden. The man had jet black hair and red blood eyes, his face perfectly sculpted. This was the typical features from the Lein Family.

"Shun!" Ayami said in surprise. She did not expect to see him here. Even so, her eyes brightened. "When did you return?"

"I returned just yesterday. I was called by the patriarch." Though Shun was indifferent, towards his little sister, he would become gentle. Of course, his facial expression did not change but the look in his eyes did.

"Oh, I see."

Shun looked at the person who was behind Ayami. "I'm glad you found a friend you could trust and you even took her home to play. Won't you introduce her to me?"

Ayami introduced the both of them.

"This is Shun whom I told you about. Shun, this is Celine."

"Hello." Celine flashed her bright smile which showed her perfectly lined white teeth.

Shun politely extended his hand; Celine took it. They shook hands quickly.

"Then I won't bother the two of you any longer. Go play over there, I'll watch you." Shun said, sounding like a mom who brought their kids to a playground to play.

"Okay~" Ayami childishly responded, giggling a little bit.

To Ayami, Shun was the only person she could trust inside the Lein Family, the same goes to Shun.

"So this where you guys were."

Suddenly, a voice interrupted them. It was Kayden. Shun seemed shock seeing Kayden in his own home.

"Kayden?"

"Oh, Shun. Ah, no. I should call you brother-in-law from now on." Kayden smiled and teased him.

Of course, Shun was confused by the way he addressed him. "What brother-in-law? I don't have a sister for you to marry."

"Isn't she your little sister?" Kayden said as he intertwined his hand with Ayami and showed it to Shun.

"Eh? You two know each other?" Ayami finally reacted after processing what just happened.

"Of course, we do. Your brother and I are friends."

"Who's your friend?" Shun said while removing their intertwined hands.

"Aw~ Brother-in-law, you're just jealous because I'm going to get married earlier than you." Kayden continued to tease. Of course, he still did not let go of Ayami's hand even though Shun looked like he was about to cut his hand off.

"You! Get away from my little sister."

"It's okay, brother. You'll learn to accept it soon."

"Wait, wait!" Ayami stopped the two of them.

Celine? She was over there, enjoying the show. How she wished she had a popcorn or even brought the donuts she got by force (by throwing a tantrum and wreaking havoc which luckily didn't get her in trouble). After the patriarch heard that, she got a truckload of donuts.

"How do you know each other? Why don't I know about this?"

"Well…"

"Oh right. The patriarch is calling you, Ayami. How about we explain this later?" Kayden said and led her to the patriarch, leaving behind the two in awkward silence.

"Uh, I have something to do, so I'll be going then." Before Shun could leave, Celine grabbed him by the wrist.

"Wait!"

"What is it?"

"I don't know how to go back. Can you show me the way back?" Celine looked at him with puppy eyes.

It was not that she was lost or anything. But hearing the fact that there were traps set in this place, she was scared to go alone. So having someone who lives here and knows the place reassures her.

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'Why isn't he saying anything?'

It was awkward for Celine to stay like. It was so awkward that her face was slowly reddening. What's more is that he was just staring at her like she was an odd species.

She slowly let go of the wrist that she was clasping tightly.

"I'm sorry." She said with her head down, her face bright red.

"....Okay."

"Huh?"

Celine couldn't process it at first, but when she realized, she happily smiled and thanked him.

"Thank you."

Meanwhile, the pair headed to Oujiro's office was chatting about random stuff.

"Why do you have to tell me later?" Ayami pouted.

"Because it's a long story."

"Then, can't you shorten it?"

"Haha, no."

"Okay. But, you know, I didn't expect you to ask for a hand in marriage from me in front of my grandfather. He's really scary, especially if he's angry. You're courageous." Ayami looked proud as she nudged him. "Plus ten points for my future husband."

"Hm~ How many points until I get full marks?" Kayden pulled her closer to the point that they were almost hugging while their face was close to each other.

Ayami was shaken. Her ears hidden behind her hair was red. She muttered with shaky voice, "A million."

"Then... if I kiss you, how many points will I get?" He said as his face got closer and closer. Ayami panicked. They can't do this here! Especially with many eyes watching them.

That's right.

Since the moment they entered the grounds, all of their movements were being monitored, except inside the garden.

Ayami immediately covered his lips with her palm. "Minus 100 points." She said, as she glared at him. She removed her palm and started stomping away.

"Why? Are you shy with being watched by so many people?" Kayden let out a sigh. He glared at the people who were hiding before catching up to Ayami.

"Ayami..." Kayden called out but she ignored him. Seeing that, Kayden had a bright idea.

"Honey?"

No response.

"Baby?"

Still no response.

"Sweetie? Darling? Deserts? Little Cakey? MOO1?"

If there is still no response, how about...

"Wifey?"

Ayami turned around with her face red, as she glared at him with glazed eyes.

"Would you stop that!?"

Kayden let out a chuckle. Ayami looked so cute right now, that he wanted to tease her more.

Luckily, Ayami didn't have to suffer any more torment as she arrived in front of the patriarch's office.