

## The Love that Never Really Dies chapter 321

“Does that hurt?”

“Yes... Ouch...”

Sasha lowered her gaze to avoid meeting Sebastian's. She turned her scarlet face to look elsewhere.

Sensing her discomfort, the man paused his actions.

His piercing gaze darkened ever further as his body rose in temperature.

The pair were more than just familiar with each other, given that they've had three children and have spent umpteen times in bed together. His sexual attraction to her was not abnormal.

Sebastian's force became gentler as he continued to apply the ointment for her.

Then, his unbridled desire compelled his hands to explore other parts of her body.

“W-What are you doing?”

Alarmed, Sasha was quick to respond to his advances and pushed him away without hesitation.

Sebastian stood there dumbfounded.

Immediately, he felt as if a pail of cold water had been splashed on his head. Her instantaneous recoil from his advances was an utter slap in the face for him.

“What do you think I’m doing? I’m applying the ointment for you. Besides, none of what I’m doing is illegal. You’re still my lawfully wedded wife. Is there anything I can’t do to you?”

Displeasure was written all over his charming visage.

This was not the first time she rejected him.

So she was deluding him all this while. She never had the intention to stay by his side.

Sasha’s face immediately drained of color upon sensing his displeasure.

“N-no, that’s not it. Listen to me, Sebastian. I was just... I’m just injured at the moment.”

“Really? Or are you just opposed to the idea of getting into bed with me?”

“I...”

His sharp retort stumped her.

His remark wasn’t entirely wrong. She had told herself time and again that she wouldn’t have any more relations with this man, so there should never be the need for them to commit such acts.

“Sebastian... Listen to me... I... I mean... We haven’t officially annulled our marriage, but it’s still going to happen. That’s why I... I think it’s best for us not to maintain such a relationship. Lest it interferes with... With your life. Right?”

Sasha clutched onto her thin tank top tightly. Her throat was parched while her palms were sweating profusely. The last thing she wanted was to provoke him with her words.

She couldn't afford to offend him.

In the event he decided to kick her out, she would lose the opportunity to stay by the sides of her children.

The moment she finished her sentence, a suffocating silence permeated the air. The atmosphere was so tense it felt as though the temperature dipped radically.

Oh god. Did I make him angry again ?

Sasha began to regret her words. She was about to attempt to placate him when he turned and left the room.

Bam!

The deafening sound of the door slamming reverberated around the room, causing the ground to tremble.

Sasha was left sitting on the bed, stupefied.

After she managed to pull herself together, she swiftly jumped off the bed to give chase. Alas, there wasn't a single shadow outside. Soon after, the sound of a roaring engine could be heard.

Sebastian had left in the middle of the night.

When what had happened registered in her mind, she staggered backward in shock and slumped against the wall.

What's the problem with what I said? Is it even possible to work things out between us? All those incidents... How can we act like none of them took place? That's impossible! Not for me, at least.

Sasha returned to her room, looking dejected. That night, all she did was toss and turn in bed.

The next day.

The children rose early, especially Matteo and Ian. Once they woke up, the duo holed up in a room and kept the door locked.

"Mommy and Daddy fought again last night. Did you hear?"

"Of course."

Ian looked awful; he had dark spots circling his eyes.

Matteo held his cheeks in his palms as he sat in front of his brother and sighed. "Why are they always like that? Can't they just get along? Why can't Daddy just tolerate Mommy? It took so much difficulty for her to return to us..."

Ian was in a dazed state as he listening to his brother rant.

His lips parted, as though he wanted to add on. However, he promptly shut his mouth.

Something felt amiss. He secretly caught the sight of Sebastian carrying Sasha upstairs, so he couldn't fathom why the two of them would argue out of the blue.

The matter is not as simple as it seems.

“We’ve got to do something.”

“What?” Matteo’s head shot up as his hopeful eyes gazed at his older brother.

“I think they’ve spent too much time apart. That’s why they’re like that now. We’ve got to create more occasions for them to spend some quality time together.”

The quick-witted Ian dissected the situation for his brother.

Matteo’s eyes lit up as he heard Ian speak.

That sounded spot on. People who were in love with each other probably spent lots of time together to develop feelings.

Familiarity breeds fondness.

Matteo concurred with his brother’s genius plan.

That day, they waited until Sasha picked them up. Then, the three children began to chatter excitedly about an upcoming school trip.

“A school trip? But it hasn’t been long since school started.”

“Mommy, now’s the prime time. Our teacher said she’d bring us to tour the countryside to experience how farmers live.”

Noticing her mother’s reservations, Vivian hurriedly piped up to legitimize their scheme.

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Farming? After Sasha heard about it, she did not voice out any concerns. Instead, she began to think it was a good suggestion.

Children in the cities grew up pampered — they knew nothing about nature. It was a great opportunity for the kids to go to the countryside and gain some insight.

Sasha soon agreed.

“Sounds good! I’ll go back tonight and help you prepare for it.”

“Okay! Mommy, let’s prepare together. Our teacher said our parents should accompany us. You and Daddy have to go with us too.”

Matteo quickly explained to his mother what his teacher had told him.

Initially, Sasha was in a good mood. However, when she heard what her son said, her expression stiffened.

Their father needs to go too?

Forget it. Sebastian definitely wouldn’t want to go with me. We had such a fierce argument last night, and I didn’t see him today. To be honest, I should count myself lucky that he didn’t chase me out.

A bitter expression crossed Sasha’s face at the thought. Avoiding the topic, she brought the kids back home.

As expected, Sebastian did not return that night. Wendy said that he did not even call.

He probably did not want to come back.

Noticing the situation, Sasha had no choice but to look for Wendy.

“Wendy, the kids say they’re going on a trip tomorrow. Why don’t you call Mr. Hayes and ask him to free up his schedule for it?”

Wendy looked at her in shock before questioning, “Aren’t you going? I heard the kids say that their parents have to go together?”

Sasha smiled bitterly. “He wouldn’t want me to tag along. It’s fine. He can just go with the kids. I’ll pack their items for them.”

Then, Sasha prepared to head upstairs and help the children pack for tomorrow.

However, at that moment, Wendy suddenly pulled her back.

“Ms. Wand, you shouldn’t do this. Although you had a conflict with Mr. Hayes, your kids are innocent. Didn’t you come here to keep them company? If that’s the case, how can you be absent from such an important activity for the kids?”

“But...”

“Just listen to me. Mr. Hayes won’t stop you from going, so you should pack your belongings and set off with them tomorrow morning,” promised Wendy with a smile.

Since that was the case, Sasha did not protest any more.

Naturally, she wanted to go on the trip because she did not want to miss any opportunities to see her kids growing up.

Hence, she went upstairs and packed a few of her clothes, planning to tag along with them tomorrow.

The night went by peacefully.

Due to the trip, Sasha woke up early the next day. She helped the kids dress up before bringing them downstairs.

“Wendy, we...”

“You’re finally back, Mr. Hayes. The children are already prepared and are waiting for you.”

Before Sasha could finish her sentence, she spotted Wendy standing outside the villa. A man was also alighting a white Maybach at that moment. Surprised, Sasha quickly paused mid-sentence.

He really came back.

When the kids saw their father, they were evidently delighted.

“Daddy’s back! Daddy, are you here to go on the trip with me?” Vivian, who had always been the most affectionate one, ran over to the man upon spotting him.

Smiling, Sebastian bent down and picked his daughter up into his arms.

“Yeah, I’m here to accompany you.”

“Wow, that’s great! Our family can have fun together now! I’m so happy, Matt!” The little girl clapped happily.

When Sasha saw this, she finally felt relieved.

Sebastian’s expression did not look that hostile, and he did not seem like he was still angry.

Sasha took a small step forward.

“Sebastian, why did you go in alone? Come here and help me adjust the children’s car seat. Why are you leaving everything to me? Do you think I’m invincible?”

Suddenly, she heard a woman complain in the white Maybach.

Sasha’s expression changed immediately, and she halted in her tracks.

Is there someone in his car?

Everyone in the courtyard was shocked when they heard that voice, especially Ian and Matteo. Their faces fell instantly.

Ms. Rocke? Why is she here now?

The woman was none other than Roxanne.

She had finally finished adjusting the children’s seat in the car. Upon seeing that Sebastian did not bother helping her, she stomped in furiously.

“Oh, everyone’s here! Are all of you ready? Matteo, Ian! Darlings, come here! I’ll help you get into the car.”

Roxanne beckoned at the two kids standing beside Sasha.

When Sasha heard that, her face paled.

Noticing that, Wendy demanded, “Mr. Hayes, why is Ms. Rocke here?”

“I told her to come along. Two adults are needed to take care of three kids,” explained Sebastian as he carried Vivian in his arms.

He did not even spare a single glance in Sasha's direction.

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Wendy was stunned by his crude answer.

She had initially wanted to ask Sebastian if he was mistaken. The children's mother was already there, yet he had asked another woman to accompany them for the trip.

However, at that moment, Sasha had already passed the suitcases and the kids over to her.

"Wendy, send them over."

"But..."

"It's fine." Sasha shook her head, trying her best to make herself look nonchalant. Then, she shoved the handle of the suitcase into Wendy's hand.

Naturally, she would be fine.

She would have to confront this issue sooner or later; it was just a matter of time.

Sasha turned after telling Wendy what to do, preparing to go back into the house.

"No! I don't want Ms. Rocke! I want Mommy! I have Mommy here, so why do I need another woman to accompany me for my trip?"

Suddenly, Vivian started yelling loudly in Sebastian's arms. She shot a furious glance at Roxanne before struggling to break free from her father's arms.

"Come back, Vivi!" When her father saw her acting like that, he tried to grab her furiously.

Although Vivian usually looked adorable and blur, she ran extremely fast at such a critical juncture. In a short while, she had caught up with Sasha.

"Mommy, don't abandon us! If you aren't going, I won't go too!"

Vivian hugged Sasha's legs and burst into tears.

When Sasha saw that, she quickly squatted and hugged her daughter tight. Her heart ached as if daggers were piercing it.

"Don't cry. I'm here, aren't I? I won't leave. I'll wait for you at home, okay? Go with Daddy and Ms. Rocke. When you come back, I'll cook some delicious food for you."

"No!"

Vivian was like her mother's most loyal fan. No matter what Sasha said or how she tried to convince her, the little girl would not change her mind.

Sasha was speechless.

Just when she was at a loss for what to do, Matteo and Ian, who were initially standing beside Wendy, immediately ran toward Sasha.

"Yeah, we won't go either!"

“We won’t go!”

The children’s minds changed simultaneously within a few seconds.

Sebastian was so furious that his face fell. Just when he was about to stride over and drag the three kids away, Wendy quickly intervened. “Mr. Hayes, if that’s the case, just bring Ms. Wand along.”

“Dream on!”

“Mr. Hayes, this is supposed to be a happy occasion for the kids. It won’t matter even if you bring an extra person along, right? Since you have three kids, you can let Ms. Wand take care of one of them. Don’t spoil the kids’ fun!” persuaded Wendy.

It was true that her suggestion was the best solution for now.

Roxanne was quick to catch on. When she noticed what was going on, she agreed, “Yeah, Wendy’s right. Let her take care of this little girl. I can’t take care of so many children alone too.”

Only then did the furious man show any signs of relenting.

After ten minutes, they set off in two groups. One group consisted of Sebastian, Roxanne, and the twins in his Maybach.

The other team consisted of Sasha, who seemed so out of place among everyone else, and Vivian.

Sasha instructed a bodyguard to send a car over before driving off.

“Mommy, I don’t like Daddy. He’s so mean! I can’t believe he didn’t let you tag along. Instead, he asked another woman to come!” complained Vivian gloomily as she sat on the children’s seat at the back of the car.

Sasha, who was focused on driving, could not help but feel touched when she heard the girl say that.

However, she still tried to educate her the right way. “You can’t think that way. Daddy loves all of you. He asked Ms. Rocke to accompany you because he wants to take care of you. You mustn’t dislike him, okay?”

I see...

Although Vivian was still quite unhappy when she heard that, she stopped complaining about her father.

They drove for about an hour before arriving at the destination.

As they had departed late, the other children in the preschool and their parents had already arrived at the village.

“Vivi, why are you so late? Everyone has already received their tasks.”

“Huh?”

Panting, Sasha reached the field while carrying her daughter. When she saw another parent greeting her, she quickly placed Vivian onto the ground.

“We were caught in traffic congestion. That’s why we’re late.”

“I see. In that case, you can only look for the preschool teacher. There are a lot of tasks today—planting, fruit picking, harvesting, and more. You should see what tasks are left.”

The parent was very kind to explain things. When she saw that Sasha and her child had arrived late, she explained what happened in detail.

The trip was not only a family bonding activity, but it was also an opportunity to train the children to work hard.

Sasha and the parent went to look for the preschool teacher.

While Vivian was being led away by Sasha, she started chatting with the kid beside her. “Molly, have you seen my brothers? They came before me.”

“Yeah! They went to farm with your father,” said Molly enthusiastically to Vivian.

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Farm? When Sasha imagined the scene, her eyelids twitched.

Can a man, who was born with a golden spoon, do something like that?

Sasha eventually received the task of fruit picking, just like Molly. It turned out that the tasks were randomized. After everyone finished their tasks, they could exchange some food from the farmers for lunch.

The preschool was quite creative to have come up with such an arrangement.

Sasha and her daughter walked toward the orchard with their baskets in hand. As Vivian had never participated in such activities, she was extremely excited. She and her friend, Molly, kept skipping along the way.

They soon spotted Matteo and Ian in the fields nearby.

“Matt! Ian! I’m here!” exclaimed Vivian happily.

To make sure her brothers could see her, the little girl waved her chubby hands enthusiastically.

Sasha was at a loss for words to see her daughter behave in such a manner.

As expected, the scene in front of her was ridiculous.

Are they farming?

No way! The four of them are actually standing in the fields. Sebastian's wearing a dashing suit, and what about the woman? She's wearing fashionable clothes and a diamond-studded pair of heels!

On the other hand, Sasha had already prepared the two boys for the trip that morning.

They wore sports shoes, a hat, and green shorts that could not be easily dirtied. Hence, they looked like they were actually ready to work.

"Sasha, are they your friends? Why are they dressed like that? How can they work like that?" remarked Karen, Molly's mother, when she saw this scene.

Sasha smiled.

Work? Isn't it better for them to be displayed like monkeys in a zoo?

Sasha ignored them. With her daughter's hand gripped in hers, she turned, about to head toward the orchard.

However, because of Vivian's shouts, the people standing in the fields had already looked over. Roxanne immediately called out to them, "Sasha, wait! What are you going to do now?"

“We’re going to pick fruits, Ms. Rocke!”

“Huh? How can you be so lucky? You’re picking fruits?”

Roxanne’s eyes lit up.

Without caring about Sebastian behind her, she quickly made her way toward Sasha, stumbling on her high heels as she did so.

Sasha looked at her incredulously.

When Roxanne reached her, she suddenly snatched Sasha’s basket away. “Sasha, I’ll pick the fruits on your behalf. You can farm for me.”

Sasha was instantly annoyed. “Are you out of your mind? Why should I exchange tasks with you?”

Roxanne rebuked indignantly, “Because I saved your son! Why can’t you swap tasks with me? If I didn’t bring your son back from the hospital, he would’ve died!”

Sasha was at a loss on how to retort her statement.

In the end, she could only watch helplessly as Roxanne snatched both her basket and her daughter away.

What’s wrong with her?

Sasha glanced at the man standing in the fields and discovered that his expression had turned gloomy when Roxanne escaped. Even from a distance, she could feel his cold aura.

Do I still have to go there?

Sasha hesitated.

However, she decided to leave the path and head toward the fields.

Although she was reluctant, she heard that they would not have any lunch if they did not complete their tasks. As she did not want her two sons to be hungry, she approached Sebastian.

“Mommy...”

When the two boys spotted her, they ran toward her and hugged her happily.

Stroking their heads, Sasha shot a glance at Sebastian. She wanted to say something, but when she noticed his intimidating and hostile glare, she decided to keep silent.

Instead, she started farming with her two sons.

“Sweeties, let’s farm together. Matt, stand beside me and follow me. Little Ian, you don’t need to come down because the water’s cold. You can just pass me the plants, okay?”

“Okay, Mommy!” replied the two boys happily after being instructed by Sasha.

Meanwhile, Sebastian watched coldly at the side.

Now that things had gone out of his control, he was extremely unhappy. He initially wanted Sasha to suffer a harsh blow and realize that she was now being exiled by him.

From now on, she had no right to participate in the Hayes family’s affairs.

She would not even have the chance to intervene in his and his children's lives. Her position would be replaced by someone else, and all she had once owned would be gone. In the future, she would have nothing to do with him.

However, things were looking different now.

He was seething in fury.

However, he soon realized that Sasha, who had tagged along unhesitatingly, actually did not know how to farm despite trying to lead the two kids.

She tried to plant the seedlings by following the other parents, but they kept floating up after a while.

“Mommy, why do they keep floating up?”

When Matteo saw it, he widened his large eyes and stared at the seedlings incredulously.

Sasha smiled awkwardly.

After thinking about it, she admitted, “Perhaps I haven't learned how to do it properly. Wait, I'll ask that man over there.”

She walked over to a male parent who was planting the seedlings nearby.

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The male parent was extremely enthusiastic when he saw her coming. As he had seen Roxanne earlier, he thought Sasha was not the children's mother.

Hence, he personally started to teach Sasha right in front of Sebastian.

“The water in the fields causes the plants to float. When we plant the seedlings, we must exert a lot more force.”

“Force? To what extent?”

“Your finger must reach this depth.” The male parent grabbed Sasha’s hand, planning to demonstrate how much strength she should use.

When Sebastian witnessed this, he could not hold himself back anymore and yelled, “Sasha, come over here right now! You don’t even know how to plant seedlings! Are you stupid?”

Sasha was at a loss for words.

After a short while, she smiled at the male parent awkwardly. “I’m sorry, the kids’ father has a bad temper.”

The male parent was surprised.

The kids’ father? Isn’t she unrelated to him? Why is he scolding her so harshly?

While the other parents shot her complex gazes, Sasha returned to Sebastian. Her temper rose as she glared at him unhappily.

“What are you doing, Sebastian? Instead of working, you’re throwing a tantrum here. Do you want the kids to go hungry?”

“I’m throwing a tantrum? You can’t even do something so simple. Yet, you’re shameless enough to ask others!”

Not only did he refuse to reflect on himself, but he was also even meaner and shameless than Sasha.

Furious, Sasha threw a seedling at him. “If you’re smart, do it yourself! Don’t just stand here motionlessly! If you are capable enough, you should work!” she exclaimed furiously.

That jerk deserves to be taught a lesson!

However, she was in for a surprise. Immediately after she spoke, he took off his socks and shoes, revealing his fair ankles. He then made his way over.

Sasha gaped in shock.

Similarly, Matteo and Ian widened their eyes as they stared at their father.

Daddy’s coming? This is surprising! He was standing there with Ms. Rocke earlier for so long, feeling disdainful and disgusted to come down! The other parents even laughed at them! Is he really going to come now?

The two kids moved aside simultaneously and welcomed Sebastian with much enthusiasm.

Meanwhile, Sasha stood there and watched as the elegant man planted his legs into the muddy water.

“Ugh!”

When he entered, the muddy water immediately contrasted with his fair skin.

As expected, he frowned and could not help but hiss in disgust.

He was already a clean freak, to begin with, so it was a challenge for him to come to a place like this.

Sasha's anger gradually dissipated.

"Okay, I was joking with you. Go back up, and I'll do this." She picked up the seedlings in front of him and was about to start farming.

However, to her surprise, he shot her a cold glance before waddling into the field directly.

The woman stared at him, utterly stunned.

"Daddy has finally come! Let's plant the seedlings together!"

Matteo clapped his hands happily.

Ian was very happy too. He squatted and passed a seedling to Sebastian, chirping, "Here, Daddy!"

Sebastian took it. It was the first time that he, who dominated the corporate world, felt extremely pleased after being praised.

That's strange.

Even Sasha smiled.

However, she did not dare to praise him. Otherwise, he might lash out at her again due to his ego.

Sasha entered the field, about to teach him how to plant. However, she soon discovered that although he had been standing aside just now, he had managed to plant the seedling firmly on his first try.

“You’re amazing, Daddy! You managed to plant it firmly!” When Matteo saw that, he showered his father with praises again.

Sebastian felt even more disdain for Sasha.

“Do you think I’m like your mother? She’s as stupid as a pig!”

Sasha almost flung the seedlings at his face in anger.

He’s really testing my limits! Why can’t he stop bullying me?

However, she controlled herself.

It was true that Sebastian was exceptionally intelligent. Although he only joined the party in the fields later on, he soon mastered the technique. He could plant the seedlings better than the rest.

On the other hand, Sasha was too weak. Every time she planted a seedling, it would still float up.

“Go distribute the seedlings with your sons.”

When Sebastian saw that, he snatched the seedlings away from her disdainfully and chased her away.

As it was true that her skills were inferior to his, she had no choice but to do whatever her sons were doing instead.

When the other parents in the fields saw that, they could not help but discuss the situation amongst themselves. “The twin’s family sure is efficient. After the father joined them, everything is getting done well. He’s much better at this as compared to their mother.”

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“Mother? So she’s their Mom? How about the woman standing on the ridge with him? That was not the mother?” one of the parents inquired.

“Of course not! Can’t you tell?” another parent said. “Look, the husband told her to take care of the seedlings because he doesn’t want her to get her hands dirty. He’s doing everything on his own instead.”

At least there were still parents who were observant enough to notice their interaction.

Upon hearing that, the other parents began to nod in agreement.

Meanwhile, Roxanne had completed her task and brought Vivian back.

She was all smiles when she returned with a basket full of fruits, but the grin on her face instantly vanished into thin air when she overheard the remarks those parents made.

It was hard for Roxanne to wrap her mind around the weird feeling that arose within her.

For years, she had always cherished the professional relationship she had with Sebastian.

But witnessing this in person somehow made her feel a little uncomfortable.

She felt as if another person had snatched something that belonged to her. It was the same feeling she had felt when Sasha visited Sebastian the last time.

Roxanne’s eyes dimmed, and her expression turned grim.

Sasha and the rest had planted all the seedlings before noon.

“Yay! We’re done! Can we go for lunch now, Mommy?” the two little boys asked.

They must be exhausted.

Sasha picked Matteo up from the field and said, “Sure! But before that, we need to clean up first. Then we’ll look for the owner of this paddy field and give him the task card.”

She then carried Matteo to a stream nearby.

Upon seeing that, Sebastian, too, brought their elder son over.

“Daddy, you can just clean yourself. I don’t have any dirt on me,” Ian said as he looked at the soil on Sebastian’s pants.

Sebastian wanted to wash away the dirt, but he felt disgusted just thinking of the wet socks, shoes, and pants.

“What’s wrong? You don’t feel like wearing wet clothes?” Sasha asked Sebastian after she was done cleaning Matteo.

Sebastian shot daggers at her. “Would you like to wear them?”

That crude remark rendered Sasha speechless.

She actually did not mind wearing wet clothes, but she decided to keep her opinion to herself.

After all, the man who grew up like a prince had zero tolerance for anything dirty and unkempt.

Sasha let out a sigh. “Come here. Let me help you. Put on this pair of disposable socks later, and once we are back to the village, we’ll try to get you a pair of new ones. Okay?”

She resorted to coaxing Sebastian like a child.

After seeing the disposable socks in her hands, the man reluctantly sat down on a rock.

“Why do you have these socks with you?” he asked while dipping his feet into the cold stream.

Sasha squatted down and gently washed the dirt off his feet.

The moment she touched his feet, Sebastian felt a tingling sensation in his heart.

It was an indescribable feeling that he had no control over.

“Isn’t it common sense? Since we’re here for this kind of activity, of course, I’ll have to prepare a few pairs of socks for the children,” she answered casually.

Sasha did not notice the expression on the man’s face as she was paying full attention to the dirt on his feet.

She had to be extra cautious — she knew Sebastian was a clean freak.

Once again, the man held his breath when her hands came into contact with his skin.

Damn it!

He instantly tried to distract himself by looking elsewhere.

Common sense, huh...

Sebastian might be said to be the one who looked after Ian, but it was the housemaids who truly took care of his son. This was why he did not have a lot of hands-on experience on such matters.

Does this mean she took care of the other two kids and did everything on her own?

She grew up in a prominent family that did not require her to do any work. Does that mean she had to learn everything from scratch after giving birth to the triplets? It must have been difficult for her.

Sebastian fell deep in thought, and his harsh expression seemed to have softened.

“What are you doing? Are you washing his feet for real? Are you doing this to get back your child? Don’t be silly!” All of a sudden, Roxanne walked over.

She exclaimed while standing beside the stream and holding a basket.

Color drained out of Sasha’s face instantly. “What are you talking about? I...”

Before she could finish her sentence, Sebastian pulled his feet away.

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The man’s expression turned grim once again. He stood up instantly and walked away from the stream.

Upon hearing that, Sasha panicked. “Don’t listen to her. That’s not my intention.”

“What’s your intention then? I almost forgot the things you had done in the past to snatch back your child. So you’ve decided to adopt a new tactic, huh?” Sebastian sneered.

In the blink of an eye, he became emotionally distant again.

Why does he have to react in such a hostile manner?

Sasha decided to keep mum; she knew he would not listen to a word she uttered.

Meanwhile, the two boys were infuriated upon seeing Roxanne disturb their parents when they were about to reconcile.

“Can you please watch what you say, Ms. Rocke? Mommy only washed Daddy’s feet because she didn’t want him to put on the dirty socks,” one of them scowled.

Roxanne snorted. “That’s ridiculous. I brought many pairs of socks for him, and he can always change into new ones when he gets back to the car. Does she need to do this?”

The two boys were now so mad that their faces turned red. Even Sasha, who was still squatting on the ground, did not know how to react.

So she has prepared everything for him. Fine. Whatever she said. I don’t care anymore.

Instead of explaining herself, Sasha stood up and looked at her daughter. “Vivi, come. Let’s go home.”

Vivian could somehow feel the sadness in Sasha’s eyes. The little one extended her chubby little arms and gave her mother a hug.

The mother-daughter duo then picked up the basket near them and left.

After shooting Sebastian and Roxanne a sullen glare, Ian and Matteo held hands and followed Sasha.

What a troublemaker!

We have to think of a way to get this wretched woman out of the way!

The two boys exchanged pointed glances and nodded, seemingly coming to an agreement.

During noon, Sasha and Vivian decided to have lunch with Molly and her mother in a farmhouse.

“Shall we stick together for this afternoon’s activity? Molly doesn’t seem to like that lady named Roxanne. She even cried a few times when she was with that lady,” Molly’s mother suggested this to Sasha with a wry smile after their daughters had gone somewhere to play after lunch.

Oh?

Sasha was a little surprised at first, but she understood how Molly’s mother felt. Roxanne is indeed one weird woman.

“Oh, okay, but I don’t think she’ll be here in the afternoon,” Sasha said.

“So, what’s up next?”

“Something about weeding, I think? Our kids should be able to handle that.” Karen took out a task card and passed it to Sasha.

Okay. It seems like a simple task.

After lunch, Sasha, Karen, and the children proceeded to their next task. They heard that they were allowed to bring home any crops they picked along the way.

Karen grew excited just thinking about it. "I wonder what kind of crops we can get there. Hopefully, we can find the beef and onion plant!"

"What kind of plant is that?" Sasha was not familiar with it as she did not grow up on the farm.

Karen grinned and started sharing her knowledge about the plant. "Let's just say the taste of the leaves is heavenly, and it's not easy to find!"

Really?

When they arrived at a plot of land over the hill, Karen found a tree and plucked the tip of the leaves that were maroon in color.

Sasha finally figured out what the woman was talking about.

It was a kind of traditional medicine people used to treat cold, flu, and diarrhea. In the past, Sasha had even kept some in the house just in case her children fell ill.

Sasha decided to harvest some of it after completing her task.

But Karen seemed to be a little obsessed with the plant. When Sasha was busy weeding out the grass on the land, Vivian ran over and told her both Karen and Molly had disappeared.

"Where have they gone to?" Sasha asked.

"No idea! They seem to have headed toward that direction to pick some leaves," Vivian told her mother what she knew.

Sasha heaved a sigh at that.

When the sun began to set, Sasha panicked as it was time for all the participants to assemble.

“Let’s go and look for them. We have to head back to the assembly point soon,” she said.

“Okay, Mommy.” Vivian reached out her tiny hand for her mother to hold and headed to the hill to look for Karen and Molly.

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After ten minutes, Sasha and Vivian had covered quite a distance. However, there was still no sign of Molly and her mom, Karen.

“Mommy, let’s not walk any further. I’m scared,” Vivian mumbled.

Children were naturally fearful of unfamiliar surroundings. When Vivian saw that there was not a soul in sight, she didn’t feel like walking any further.

Sasha was not willing to do so either. But what if something happened to Molly and her mom?

In the end, Sasha carried her daughter and forged ahead for a few more miles.

“Karen? Molly? Where are you?”

All she could hear was silence. As it was getting dark, the eerie surroundings sent a chill down Sasha’s spine.

She soon lost the courage to continue and finally decided to return for help.

However, just when she turned around, a snake with a torso as thick as a baby's arm slithered out from the bushes. It caused her to exclaim in fright and roll down the side of the road.

“Ah!”

Meanwhile, Sebastian and Matteo's job was to scatter the fertilizer on the farmers' behalf.

It was a simple task where they didn't need to get their hands dirty.

However, the atmosphere within the group was tense. Everyone had a gloomy expression on, and no one was willing to say a word, including the two children.

When Roxanne sensed what was going on, she tried to lighten the atmosphere. “Matteo, what do you think we should bring back? I heard we can take the vegetables we picked home with us.”

The boy merely stared coldly at her.

Roxanne didn't know what else to say.

Feeling helpless, she looked in Ian's direction.

However, Ian openly showed his displeasure by walking off instead.

He approached his father and suggested, “Daddy, let's search for Mommy and Vivi.”

Sebastian was standing there checking his phone when he was supposed to be planting seeds together with his children. Evidently, he wasn't as enthusiastic compared to how he had been in the morning.

When he heard the children wanting to see their mom, his gaze darkened before he shifted it away from his phone.

"No, you can't!"

"Why not? Our work is almost done, and we can leave soon. However, we're not sure about Mommy and Vivi's progress. What if they haven't finished their work?"

When Matteo sensed his dad's apprehension, he hurried over to back Ian up.

However, both children were disappointed when Sebastian didn't allow them to do so.

Not only did he forbid them from seeing Sasha and Vivian; he even got Roxanne to carry them away once they were done.

After that, the group left the village and returned home.

Damn you, Daddy! You will regret this!

It wasn't until an hour later when Karen led some men in search of Sasha and Vivian. When they heard the cries of a child, they realized both of them had fallen down the hill.

"Sasha, are you alright? How's Vivian?"

After the mother-daughter duo was rescued, Karen felt bad when she found out that Sasha had been searching for her and Molly before falling down.

Luckily, everyone is safe.

“We’re alright. Vivi has just gotten a fright and some light scratches. It’s no big deal,” Sasha reassured her in an exhausted tone.

Only then did everyone heave a sigh of relief.

Since both mother and daughter were now found, many of the parents began to leave for home.

Molly and her mom were also preparing to leave.

“Sasha, we’re going off now before it gets too dark.”

“In that case, has Ian and Matteo gone home?” Sasha asked casually, holding out hope.

However, she felt a chill run down her spine when Karen told her that the boys had already left.

In fact, they had left before the teacher declared the event over.

Why are they in such a hurry to leave both of us behind?

Sebastian probably intended it.

Feeling disheartened, Sasha laughed wryly. “I think it’s better that I stay here overnight. Since Vivi is both hurt and traumatized, I’m afraid the long trek might be too much for her.”

“In that case...”

Karen hesitated for a while before she finally agreed. She promised that she would inform the organizers on their behalf before leaving.

With that, Sasha and Vivian stayed back.

At night, the village was extremely quiet. After dinner, both of them lay in their room within the farmhouse. However, Sasha was unable to sleep because of how silent it was.

Her mind kept wandering toward the day's events.

Everything had happened as how she had intended them to. Given how badly Sebastian treated her, it only demonstrated that their relationship was damaged beyond salvation.

Although there was nothing for her to complain about, she felt miserable still.

Lying on her bed, her ears were filled with the sound of frogs croaking. However, she could feel a knot in her heart it was causing her immense frustration.

Why am I feeling this way?

Have I not steeled my heart enough? Or have I forgotten about the harm the Hayes family caused me?

Throughout the night, Sasha tossed and turned in bed.

Knock! Knock!

“Ms. Wand, someone is here for you,” their farm host called out suddenly.

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“Solomon? Why are you here?”

After coming out of her room, Sasha was stunned to see the man there in the middle of the night.

Solomon?

How is this possible? When did he return, and more importantly, how did he find me?

“It’s me. I came back on purpose to pick you up, Nancy. Something happened over at Wall Street. Since I couldn’t get through, I flew back at once.”

Despite having rushed back, Solomon calmly explained the reason for his presence. Behind that gold-rimmed specs of his was a warm and gentle smile.

Sasha’s attention was captured.

“What happened? Is Lance alright?”

“No, the issue just relates to the project Andy and you have been working on. The Wall Street regulators have their eyes on it. Hence, Andy wants you to come back and deal with it to cover up his wrongdoings.”

To prove that he was telling the truth, Solomon had brought some documents with him.

Sasha looked through them at once.

Given that Andy liked to involve himself in illegal businesses, Sasha wasn't surprised by Solomon's words.

The report stated that the project she and Andy were running before she returned was a scam.

"Is he crazy? Why isn't there anything?"

"Given that Andy is involved, anything is possible." Solomon could only state the facts.

Sasha's expression darkened in response.

If the goods for the contract she negotiated never existed, the transaction would be considered a serious crime. In fact, she might even be sentenced to prison.

With no time to lose, the woman returned to her room and picked the sleeping Vivian up.

"Let's head to the airport right away."

"Alright."

Smiling gently, Solomon left with both mother and daughter.

At that moment, a white Maybach was speeding down the highway with its driver flooring the accelerator.

Thirty minutes later, it returned to the village.

Knock! Knock!

Sebastian was in a foul mood, given the circumstances. It was a miracle that he didn't kick down the farmhouse door right away.

When the farmer heard the sharp knock, he jumped out of bed in fright and rushed to open the door.

“Why are there so many visitors tonight? Who are you?”

“Where are they?”

With a pale face, Sebastian had no patience to wait for a response from the host. Instead, he stormed into the house and started searching.

The farmer immediately knew what the man wanted.

“Are you searching for the mother and daughter duo? Someone picked them up earlier.”

“Who?”

Sebastian stopped searching and glared at the farmer as if his eyes could spitfire.

The farmer was so frightened that he could hardly stutter out a reply.

“It... It was a bespectacled man about your age. He took them away.”

Upon hearing that, Sebastian's heart sank.

Staring blankly into space, it took him a while to digest what had just occurred.

A bespectacled man of my age?

Who could it be?

Solomon ?

The moment Solomon appeared in his mind, rage swelled within him.

Since when did they keep in touch ? Did she stay here on purpose so that she could meet him ? Did they plan this ?

Losing his rationality, his thoughts veered toward the extreme.

Staring at him warily, the farmer didn't dare utter another word until he heard a frightening voice ask, "Where did they go ?"

"Th-they seemed to be heading to the airport."

The farmer could feel a chill run down his spine as he spoke.

With that, Sebastian stormed off at once, slamming the door behind him with a loud bang.

In a blink of an eye, his car was nowhere to be seen.

He sure is a terrifying man!

I wonder if the mother and daughter will be alright ?

Meanwhile, Sasha had arrived at the airport with Vivian and Solomon.

Along the way, Solomon asked her if she wanted to send Vivian home first.

However, Sasha declined his offer.

"Vivi, does Daddy know you're his daughter ?"

“No, he has never brought it up.”

“In that case, why do you call him Daddy?”

“After you left, I was miserable. He asked me to call him Daddy. Mommy, is Daddy abandoning us? Why didn’t he come looking for us?”

Vivian had awoken by then. When she saw that she wasn’t at home and in an unfamiliar environment instead, she huddled in Sasha’s embrace with a miserable expression.

Sasha’s nose burned as she withheld her emotions.

How am I supposed to explain things to her?

If he is aware that she is his daughter, he would definitely have come for her. Unfortunately, he hates the fact that she isn’t.

Sasha let out a forlorn smile at that thought.

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Pondering upon it, she felt it wasn’t so bad after all. At the very least, she could still leave with one of the children.

“Nancy, both of you wait here. I’ll get the flight tickets sorted.”

Solomon left them at the waiting area as he went off.

Nodding in agreement, Sasha found a seat to settle down with Vivian in her arms.

Since it was midnight, there were hardly any passengers at the airport. Hence, the massive passenger area was largely empty. Sitting there waiting, Sasha stared blankly into space.

She was thinking about her two sons.

Will they be sad and upset at me for leaving all of a sudden?

“Mommy, I’m hungry. I want some milk,” Vivian suddenly complained.

Milk?

Where am I going to find milk here?

Scanning her surroundings, Sasha spotted a twenty-four-hour convenience store and carried Vivian over.

“Sweetie, we don’t have any milk powder right now. So, we’ll have to settle for packet milk, alright? Which one would you like?”

“That one.”

Standing in front of the store rack, Vivian pointed at a packet of milk in front of her.

Smiling, Sasha asked the service staff to get it for her as she stood up to pay.

However, both of them suddenly saw a familiar figure appear. Just like a hurricane, he dashed over and pulled Vivian into his embrace.

“Mommy! Mommy!”

Shocked by the sudden attack, Vivian let out a shrill shriek.

Sasha expression drastically changed.

However, the moment she sprang to her feet and saw who had snatched her daughter, her face turned pale as a sheet.

“Sebastian, why are you here?”

“Why? Are you afraid to see me? Am I in the way of your attempt to elope?”

Sebastian had a fearsome look on his face. His eyes were bloodshot, and he looked just like an angry beast, ready to lash out at any moment.

Stunned, Sasha denied his accusation at once. “What nonsense are you talking about? Who’s eloping? We have some urgent matters to attend to in Moranta. You shouldn’t make such wild accusations.”

“Me? Wild accusations? Sasha, do you think I’m blind? He flew here in the middle of the night to see you, and you expect me to believe you have something urgent in Moranta? What is it? Are you rushing back to sleep with him?”

His words were preposterous and insulting, making him look like a lunatic.

Sasha trembled in anger.

“Sebastian, you have gone overboard!” Not wanting to argue any further, she rushed toward him in an attempt to carry Vivian away so that she could leave the place.

However, when the man saw her diving at him, he made a swift turn to avoid her, ignoring Vivian’s cries.

“You don’t deserve to touch my child!”

What ?

Grasping in thin air, Sasha’s eyes widened at Sebastian.

His child ?

So he does know!

So why did he abandon us at the village ? Where was he when we fell at the hill ? How dare he forbid me from touching his child ?

Sasha was infuriated. She glared at him, her entire body was shaking as she snarled, “Your child ? It looks like you have known all along that she’s yours. In that case, what were you doing in the afternoon ? Did you know she almost fell to her death ?”

Sebastian was stumped.

“Sebastian, you have no right to accuse me of anything. You had none then, and neither do you have any now. Even if I am eloping, such a matter has nothing to do with you!”

Extremely disheartened, Sasha flared at him without restraint.

Sebastian’s eyes flashed with icy rage, and his knuckles cracked the moment he clenched his fists. Within his bloodshot eyes was a gaze that was filled with murderous intent.

Thump!

Without any warning, Sasha was grabbed by her throat and slammed against the store’s fridge.

“Trying to elope? Fine, let’s see you do it with your corpse. Anything that belongs to me doesn’t leave my grasp unless it’s dead.”

Holding a crying girl with one hand, Sebastian leaned toward Sasha’s ear and chuckled with a devilish tone.

Sasha pupils began to constrict.

Suddenly, she felt the fingers around her neck tighten as a suffocating sensation overwhelmed her body.

“Mommy! Mommy!”

Witnessing the scene, Vivian bawled at the top of her lungs.

Meanwhile, the store attendants were utterly stunned. Watching the terrifying scene unfold before them, they lost all their abilities to react.

Luckily, Solomon arrived at the nick of time. When he saw Sebastian raging like a madman, his expression changed drastically. He lunged forward and slapped the man’s hand away.

“Sebastian! What the hell are you doing? You’re going to kill her!”