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After firmly putting down his teacup, Jonathan remarked, "Alright then. In one week's time, I'll return with some soldiers to personally put him through military training."

With that, Jonathan got up and left.

Sasha was stumped

Military training? What sort of military training?

Staring blankly, Sasha had no idea what Jonathan was talking about.

After Jonathan had left, Sebastian came over and saw the steaming tea on the table. Unable to control his rage, he reached out his hand and swept them aside.

Crash!

Suddenly, everything fell onto the floor in a thunderous crash.

Dumbfounded, Sasha stared at the mess for a long while before regaining her senses.

"Mr. Hayes, what are you doing?"

"What am I doing? How dare you ask me that? I should be asking you that question? Are you pleading mercy for me? Are you worried that he will kill me? That's why you're serving him as if you're a slave?"

Sitting in his wheelchair, Sebastian unleashed his scathing tirade just like a beast gone berserk.

Sasha gaped.

No, that's not the reason. I'm doing it to prevent their conflict from escalating. Antagonizing Jonathan now would only bring him more harm than good.

Sasha explained, "No, Mr. Hayes. That wasn't my intention. I just wanted to prevent both of you from quarreling. All I wanted to do was calm the situation down."

"What has that got anything to do with you? Macy West, I would rather die by his sword than see you grovel like a dog in front of him for my sake," Sebastian roared again.

This time, his insulting words had struck a nerve.

Sasha's face turned ashen.

Just like a dog? After all that I have done, is it just a disgrace to him?

Sasha's eyes reddened. At the same time, anger welled up within her. "Why don't you care about your life at all? Is it necessary to take death so lightly all the time? Do you understand the implications of your words?"

"That's my business, not yours!"

"How can it not be mine? I'm your doctor and responsible for saving you. If a patient's life is threatened in front of me, am I not duty-bound to save him?"

Sasha yelled back while glaring at him with her bloodshot eyes.

It was painful for her to see him react that way all the time.

Without a care for his life, he insists on going against Jonathan all the time. Why is he doing this? What right does he have to even behave this way? Can it be that he isn't aware of the many lives that were sacrificed just so that he could live?

One of them was her own. Back then, she had given up her own life for him.

"Yes, I may not be qualified to tell you what to do. But Sebastian Hayes, has it occurred to you that by not appreciating your own life, you are letting those who sacrificed their lives for you die in vain?"

Sasha was finally in tears as she held on to her arm that was still hurting.

This was the first time she had lost her composure after he had woken up.

Sebastian finally fell silent.

Despite giving her a fearsome stare with his chest still heaving in anger, he did not say another word especially when he saw her holding her injured arm.

When Sasha noticed his silence, a sense of exhaustion set upon her. She was in no mood to continue the conversation any further.

After getting up, she swept the glass shards from the broken teacup off her legs before leaving Oceanic Estate in tears.

He has no right to say all those things.

Nevertheless, she knew his egoistic pride couldn't accept a woman begging for mercy on his behalf.

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After forty minutes, she arrived at an apartment in the city

Karl was shocked to see her looking like a mess.

Given a fright, he took her bag from her at once and asked anxiously, "Mrs. Hayes, what happened? Why do you look so dejected? Also, what's wrong with your hand?"

With her reddened eyes, Sasha collapsed butt first onto the ground.

"I gave him a piece of my mind!"

"Huh?" Karl was shocked "Who did you scold? Mr. Hayes?"

"Mmm-hmm!"

Sitting there, Sasha used a napkin to wipe her already swollen eyes.

"His temper keeps getting worse and will fight with Jonathan at every opportunity he gets. Also, he doesn't care about his life at all. Hence, I have no choice but to admonish him for his own good. That's the only way for him to stay safe."

Karl stood still without a word for a long time.

Even before the incident, Mr. Hayes has always been a proud man. Hence, there's no way he can stand being locked up and controlled right now. Therefore, it's understandable that he is at odds with Jonathan all the time.

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Karl brought a glass of water over.

"What you did is right. Other than helping him, we need to ingrain the same awareness into him. Anyway, what happened to your hand? Did you hurt yourself?"

The moment he changed the subject, his gaze fell upon Sasha's arm.

Only then did Sasha looked down at it.

In truth, Sebastian had twisted her hand earlier. However, he would never know that her body was filled with screws, including the forearm that he had just hurt.

"I'm fine. I just hurt myself during work. It's nothing some medication wouldn't cure. Anyway, where's Vivi?"

Not wanting Karl to worry, she changed the subject.

However, Karl was stumped.

After all, he used to be a soldier and had worked as a bodyguard for many years. Therefore, he could recognize the injury on her hand with a single glance.

Nevertheless, he didn't force the issue since Sasha didn't want to talk about it.

Pointing at the room, he remarked, "She's already asleep. If there's nothing else, I'll take my leave."

"All right. Thanks for everything."

Nodding in acknowledgment, Sasha watched him leave.

Late at night, when both mother and daughter were in deep sleep, a figure that had been keeping watch outside the window slipped in and placed a bottle of medication for bruises on the table.

After that, the figure disappeared at once.

The next day, Sasha was awoken by a squeaky voice whispering softly.

"Vivi, you're up?" Sasha called out with her eyes still closed.

The moment she spoke, Vivian, who was underneath the bed talking on the phone with her brothers, covered her mouth anxiously. After that, she began to look up carefully.

"Mommy, you're awake?"

"Mmm-hmm. What are you doing? Why are you underneath the bed?"

Sasha was given a fright and quickly picked her up.

Meanwhile, Vivian did not turn off the communication device in her ear as she wanted to let her brothers hear Sasha's voice. Hence, she snuggled up to her mom and began chatting with her.

"Mommy, are you going to see Daddy today?"

"Yes."

When the thought crossed her mind, Sasha felt perplexed. Although she did feel better after scolding him the day before...

Oh no! Will he be angry? Will he bar me from entering?

Sasha began to worry.

"Mommy, when will I get to see Daddy? I really want to go and see him."

Oblivious to Sasha's concerns, Vivian made known her intentions with a pout.

Sasha kept mum.

Take her along? I'd better not. I'm not even sure if I can get to see him today. Hence, it's better to wait for things to calm down first.

"Be patient as today is just my second day. There's a fierce grandpa in Daddy's house now. Once I get a handle on him, I'll take you there, alright?"

"Is that so?"

Vivian was upset.

However, there was no way she could go against Sasha.

Hence, when Sasha went to the bathroom, she continued chatting with her brothers while lying on her bed.

"Matt, Mommy doesn't want to take me to see Daddy, what should I do? If I don't get to see him, neither will both of you."

"Calm down." A child's voice chimed out of the communication device. It was Matteo speaking.

"Our main objective now is to understand Daddy's situation. Ian, didn't you find out that the old man named Jadeson is our biological great-grandpa?"

"Mmm-hmm."

lan grunted in acknowledgment.

Matteo added, "In that case, let's find a way to let him know of our existence."

"Huh?"

The moment Matteo spoke, Vivian widened her eyes in shock while Ian gave him a quizzical look.

When he saw the look on Ian's face, Matteo chuckled. "Isn't a pair of twin great-grandsons priceless to an old man?"

Ian was dumbstruck but quickly understood what Matteo was getting at.

That's true. Our existence would be considered delightful news to that old man.

Furthermore, their emergence would be of great help to their parent's reconciliation. At the very least, they would be able to notify Karl in time unlike the time in the hospital.

Or perhaps, they could seek help from others who were just as powerful.

That way, Vivian wouldn't have to go through such a shock.

Ian strongly supported his brother's idea. "Fine. That's what we'll do then."

With that, the boys began working on their tablet.

After breakfast, Sasha took a taxi to Oceanic Estate.

"Hi, I'm Dr. West. Please open the door for me."

The servant who answered the door appeared on the screen and replied, "Oh, Dr. West! Good morning. Would you like to come in? Mr. Hayes has gone to the Red Pavilion."

Sasha was delighted that she wasn't barred from entering the place.

The Red Pavilion? What sort of a place is that?

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"I'm sorry, but where is that? Why did he go there super early in the morning?"

"It's Mr. Devin's house. He came over this morning to bring Mr. Hayes to his place for breakfast," the housemaid explained to Sasha patiently.

Oh, he's gone to Devin's.

Relieved, Sasha immediately hailed a cab and left for Red Pavilion.

Her main objective was to take care of Sebastian. Since he had gone somewhere else, she must surely follow.

Many locals in Jadeborough knew that the Jadesons did not live together. Each of the family members had their own residence.

For example, Charles lived in Jade Court; Connor at Deerlake Ranch, whereas Colton resided in a regular villa.

Devin, on the other hand, made Red Pavilion his home.

When Jonathan moved into the Oceanic Estate, he was apprehensive about being influenced negatively by the others. Hence, he never allowed any family members to stay with him.

Shortly after, Sasha showed up at Red Pavilion.

What greeted her was a humungous garden-style villa. Though it was not as grand as the Oceanic Estate, it certainly looked like it cost a fortune.

"Hello. May I ask if this is Mr. Devin Jadeson's residence?"

"Ya, who are you?" The security guard was not as polite as the ones at Oceanic Estate for he did not recognize Sasha.

Then, Sasha showed him her work ID.

"Sorry, I'm actually Mr. Sebastian's family doctor. I heard that he came over this morning, so I made a trip here to see him."

"Family doctor?"

As soon as the security guard saw her work ID, his gaze changed instantly. Thereafter, Sasha was led into the villa.

Along the way, she walked past a luxurious garden with a magnificent view. She also noticed a lot of housemaids busy doing their chores. The entire atmosphere felt even more grandeur than the Oceanic Estate.

"Did you see that person? I think he looks all right."

"Yup, I saw him, and I think so too."

All of a sudden, Sasha heard the housemaids chattering away at work.

She strode toward them.

"However, they said that he's crazy. I can't tell. He just sits there without saying much. Anyhow, everything about him seems normal to me, especially his looks. He has that nobleness in him; it almost looks like his second nature."

"Geez!" Someone mocked, "That's considered a noble look? Do you know who his mother is?"

"Who?"

"The daughter of a commoner in a small town!"

All the housemaids at the garden were left in complete bewilderment by that remark.

A lowly commoner? That's so unworthy. They are probably country bumpkins.

Within seconds, everyone changed their attitude and started showing contempt toward the subjects of their gossips. Some even started discussing his non-existent flaws, namely glum, sick, seemingly an abnormal person...

Infuriated, Sasha stormed toward them and questioned intentionally, "Who are you talking about? Mr. Sebastian?"

"Ahh!" The group of housemaids were startled.

They left with the look of fear on their faces.

What's this all about?

Sasha felt much better after seeing how terrified they were. Subsequently, she took a stroll along the route which led her to the main door of the villa.

"You're really here, Mr. Hayes. I'm here to pick you up," delighted, Sasha exclaimed.

Just as she had expected, she saw the man whom she was looking for. He was sitting on the couch, chatting with Stephen and Devin.

As she spoke, the trio turned their heads at her in unison.

The father and son did not look too surprised. After all, they were well aware of her being sent by Grayson to the Oceanic Estate.

Sebastian, on the contrary, furrowed his brows when he saw her.

Sasha was at a loss for words.

Is he displeased? Is he still angry about what happened yesterday?

Sasha's heart sank. His unwelcoming attitude is such a turn off.

"Oh, it's Dr. West. Come on in. Have you had your breakfast?" Devin was the kind one who greeted and invited her into the villa.

Feeling rather uneasy, Sasha entered the house and sat next to Sebastian.

"Sorry for being late this morning, Mr. Hayes, When I arrived, you've already left the house. My sincere apologies."

The room was as silent as the grave. Nobody responded to her. That man even looked away indifferently, as if she was not present.

Sasha cursed in her heart.

This man is one who holds grudges!

Thankfully, Stephen broke the awkward silence as he recalled who Sasha was. "Oh, it's you! The doctor whom Grayson sent."

Instantly, Stephen's expression turned nasty.

"Haha, yes, you're right, Lieutenant Colonel Jadeson." Sasha smiled wryly because she also remembered how she blasted them away when the two visited the hospital the other day.

"I'm really sorry about what happened the last time we met, Lieutenant Colonel Jadeson. I had to ask the two of you to leave first and prioritized Mr. Hayes' health condition at that time," she attempted to justify her action.

Right after she finished her explanation, a high-pitched woman's voice sounded from the back. "Yes, you considered my nephew's condition the other day. But what about now? My nephew is perfectly fine. So, can you leave right away?"

"Huh?" Sasha turned and looked in the direction of the middle-aged woman.

"Me? You want me to leave now?"

"Yes, can you do that? This is not a hospital, so why are you here? As you said that day, if you want to wait for your patient, you should wait outside instead," gritting her teeth, Jasmine retorted with full resentment.

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To Sasha, the Jadesons were like the ultimate example of the rich and famous.

They were regarded as distinguished members of royalty that countless people wanted to associate themselves with so badly. The Jadeson family held supreme power in their hands; they could do anything they wanted at anytime and anywhere.

Gazing at the scowling face of the woman who wanted to kick her out of the house, Sasha was amused by the irony.

Where's the manners that should be demonstrated by an aristocratic family?

"Sure, excuse me then." Sasha could not be bothered to argue with her. Rising to her feet, she was ready to take her leave.

Unexpectedly, a familiar, frigid voice drifted over. "Come over here."

Hmm?

Everyone was dumbfounded by that sudden request. Sasha stopped in her tracks while Stephen and Jasmine turned their heads to the man who had spoken.

It was Sebastian.

He did not show much emotion through his eyes and his handsome face remained expressionless. As usual, he exuded a cold and hostile vibe, directly contrasting the warm morning sun, which was shining in through the window.

Like an intimidating statue, his presence made others shudder in fear.

Stephen and his wife dared not speak any further.

Sasha hesitated before asking, "Mr. Hayes, are you calling me?"

There was yet, another dead silence.

Moments later, Sebastian grew impatient and tried to prop himself up from the couch.

"Be careful!" Anxious, Sasha dashed across the room and held him.

Jasmine and Stephen were surprised to see his reaction.

At that moment, Devin just returned after instructing the housemaid to serve breakfast. Upon seeing the scene, he was stunned. "What happened? Sebastian, where are you going?"

"Out!" he yelled angrily.

Out? Where to? Is he leaving?

The faces in the living room dropped instantly, especially Stephen and his wife.

For a long time, the couple had been preparing to receive Sebastian.

Ever since Jonathan brought Sebastian home, the latter had never been nice to him. In fact, he even laid hands on him. As his father's son, Stephen could clearly see that Jonathan was not bothered by Sebastian's appalling attitude. On the contrary, Jonathan was in favor of Sebastian.

For instance, he brought Sebastian to Heron Hill, and also let him stay at the Oceanic Estate.

Hence, Stephen felt threatened. Apart from falling out of Jonathan's favor, he also feared that Devin would face the same fate too.

Will Dad change his mind about the rightful heir to the inheritance?

The couple got so worked up lately that they had been urging Devin to bring Sebastian over, just so they could get to know him better.

They also had another hidden agenda in mind. It was a golden opportunity for the couple to show care and concern to Sebastian who had never met his father. They wanted to present themselves well to Jonathan and earn some credits while doing it.

Stephen clenched his fists.

"Going out? Where to? Are you heading home? Why so soon? Lunch is not even ready yet. Don't you want to hang around here today?" Devin had the impression that Sebastian wanted to leave. Panicked, he tried to persuade him to stay.

Hearing all these, Sasha was completely baffled.

Is he planning to go home? He wants to leave with me because Jasmine is kicking me out?

She looked at him through the corner of her eyes, feeling delighted at that thought. There was a glint of light in her eyes.

However, Sebastian kept quiet as he stood up. With Sasha's help, he reached out to his wheelchair and settled in.

Feeling restless, Stephen approached him and said, "That's right. You've only been here for a short while, Sebastian. Are you really planning to go home now? I took a day of leave from the military headquarters just so I can spend some time with you today."

"Well, you're more than welcomed to go to work now," Sebastian snapped at him.

Stephen was taken aback by his cruel response.

He's really ruthless! How insolent!

"Oh dear, how can I do that? This is the very first time we are going to have a meal together as uncle and nephew. Sebastian, are you upset because Jasmine made a remark on your doctor friend? Rest assured that I'll make her apologize to her right now."

Subsequently, Stephen glared at Jasmine, who looked awful upon hearing what her husband said.

"I..." she faltered. She couldn't believe what she heard.

"What's up with that stammering? As an elder, where are your manners? Aren't you the host? Why were you so calculative toward a young lady? Our family will be a laughing stock if this incident goes viral!" Stephen reprimanded her fiercely.

The reason for his outburst was because he was afraid that Jasmine would ruin his grand plan.

After getting an earful from her husband, Jasmine scanned the room and noticed that all eyes were on her. She felt terrible that the housemaids were all staring at her. At that instant, she was so embarrassed that she wished she could dig a hole and bury herself in the ground.

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How dare he lashes out at me in front of so many people? How should I continue living as the woman of the house with dignity? How can I face them henceforth?

Jasmine was blazing with anger deep down, but she could only acquiesce to Stephen's decision.

"I'm sorry, Dr. West. Indeed, my tongue was rather loose just now. Somehow, as I get older, I tend to lose my temper easily. Please don't take it to heart," she faked a smile and said through gritted teeth.

Her response got Sasha completely petrified.

She did not expect the way things had turned out. One moment, she was being chased out; and within the blink of an eye, the person who was so hostile toward her actually said sorry to her.

This feels great!

Overjoyed, she cast a glance at the man in the wheelchair.

"It's okay. I was the one to blame for being so rude to both of you at the hospital. I'd like to apologize for my actions too." Sasha tried to be the bigger person, and let bygones be bygones.

With that said and done, is Sebastian still planning to leave?

Everything seemed to have sorted out. Yet, the lot was quietly waiting in trepidation because that man was still moving in his wheelchair!

"Sebastian, you are..."

"Accompany me to the bathroom." He took a quick glance at Devin, and then completed the sentence where he left off.

The whole living room fell silent.

So, after all the drama, he actually doesn't have the intention to leave the house, but he just wants to go to the bathroom? What is he trying to do? Did he make a scene in order to stand up for this woman? What a bast*rd!

Jasmine was about to go ballistic.

Shortly after Devin pushed the wheelchair a distance away, Stephen slumped on the couch with a long face. He was infuriated. "This is too much!"

He's gone overboard. Sasha concurred with his thoughts because she felt cheated too. So, he wasn't planning on leaving with me, and I got so thrilled for nothing. Huh...

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Half an hour later, everyone gathered at the dining table. Sasha sat next to Sebastian so that she could take care of him since his hands had not recovered fully.

"What would you like to have? I'll help you." Putting on the disposable gloves, she cleaned his cutleries while skimming through the sumptuous spread on the table.

Lunch was lavishly prepared. There was an array of dishes, from appetizers, mains, sides, covering eastern, continental, and western options. Everything was very well planned and elaborated.

It turns out that the family does put in the effort to prepare for his visit. They didn't just focus on their ulterior motives.

"Soup," the only word Sebastian uttered. Although he did not have much appetite, he did it for Devin's sake.

Upon hearing that, Sasha served him a bowl of soup.

"Why are you only drinking soup? Come on, Sebastian, try this. It's grilled lamb."

After seeing his nephew asking merely for soup despite being served with a splendid range of delicacies, Stephen enthusiastically introduced all the yummy food and encouraged him to try them.

Devin followed suit, attempting to make Sebastian feel welcomed.

Soon, the food on Sebastian's plate piled up like a small hill.

The observant Sasha noticed that the man gave a grimace of disgust. Thus, she proactively removed the full plate from his sight and placed it in front of her.

"Sorry, Mr. Hayes' hands haven't fully recovered. Considering that he might not be flexible with his hands, it'll be better if I serve him his food."

Then, she picked up the cutlery and started cutting the food for him.

Stephen and Devin exchanged glances but said nothing.

Jasmine displayed her annoyance and displeasure through a dimmed expression.

She actually waits on him and even takes care of his daily diet! Is she really a doctor? I think she looks more like a wh*re who's trying to take advantage of the situation to climb up the social ladder.

As she scoffed under her breath, she had an idea.

Sasha was busy preparing the food and seemed to be unaware of Jasmine's odd expression.

She was focusing on removing those items that Sebastian disliked. He's such a picky eater with a massive mysophobia. He surely won't touch these things.

Sasha picked only the piece in the center and a sandwich which nobody had laid a finger on. Next, she rearranged them neatly, spread some butter on them, and served them before that man.

"All right, all done. I've carefully picked out the parts where no one has touched. Please help yourself," she muttered gently as if she was coaxing a child.

Sebastian's lip twitched slightly. He wanted to reprimand her for being a nagger and a busybody.

However, he was at a loss for words when his gaze fell on the sandwich. The way she plated the food was so professional; everything was extremely precise as if she had measured them using a ruler.

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On top of being a germaphobe, he also had obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Shortly after he opened his eyes, he picked up the set of cutlery in front of him.

Devin, who was there throughout the session, found out that Sasha was pretty cautious while serving Sebastian his breakfast.

Aware of the germaphobe's pet peeves, she served him his favorite set of big breakfast instead of a traditional set.

Devin's eyes flickered as he continued losing himself in a train of thoughts.

Shortly after their breakfast, Stephen brought Sebastian away with him and asked his nephew to join him for chess.

On top of that, Stephen mentioned he needed Sebastian to provide his feedback for the subsidiaries of the Jadesons.

Sasha thought Stephen had reached out to the right person since Sebastian had always been an exceptional corporate player.

Immediately after their departure, she started cleaning up the table, but Devin showed up behind her and instructed, "Dr. West, just leave the rest to the housemaid. Why don't you come along with me? I have something for Sebastian to hand over to you."

She followed him without any doubts since he was the only one who truly cared about Sebastian amongst the rest of the Jadesons.

Although she couldn't forgive him for the things he had done, she knew it wouldn't be wise to pick on him for Sebastian's sake.

They made their way to the courtyard of Red Pavilion shortly after marching out of the mansion.

Devin asked, "Where are you from, Dr. West? The way you speak sort of reminds me of my friends from Tayhaven."

Startled by the question directed at her, she made up her mind to play along with him and stammered, "Y-Yes! I-I'm from Tayhaven!"

Tayhaven? Speaking of which, my dearest cousin's wife is from Tayhaven as well, isn't she?

Devin asked with a smile, "Tayhaven is a wonderful city. I have been missing the people and the food there ever since I was dispatched there for a mission."

"W-Well, it's nothing special."

Halfway through their conversation, Devin announced in a serious tone, "No! Tayhaven is a freaking food paradise! I'm still missing the local delicacies of Tayhaven up until this very moment!"

Sasha found the man hilarious since he was nothing similar to the almighty successor of the Jadesons she had heard of from others.

She once thought he was a bloodlust militant, but the man in front of him was nothing similar to the rumors she heard.

"Indeed, there are a lot of local delicacies worth giving a try. If you're craving for any of those in the future, just give me a heads up whenever you drop by Tayhaven in the future. I'll bring you around."

"Sure!" Devin was thrilled by Sasha's suggestion.

Ten minutes later, they finally made their way to the other end of the mansion. Devin showed him the way up the stairs and led her to another room.

She thought it wouldn't be wise to join him in the room since there were just the two of them. Thus, she mentioned she would wait for him outside of the room.

Devin stopped insisting and made his way into the room without Sasha.

Bam!

Out of nowhere, a loud bang inside the room took Sasha by surprise since she was clueless about the things going on inside the room.

As a result, she barged into the room in fear of something bad happening to Devin. She yelled, "Mr. Jadeson, are you okay? What's—"

Sasha's eyes widened in disbelief when she caught a glimpse of the suitcase on the floor. To her surprise, another one of the suitcases on top of the wardrobe was about to fall.

Afraid of making things worse, Devin dared not move around. He muttered to himself with his face scrunched up in agony, "Mom shouldn't have—"

Sasha's mind was all over the place. Seconds after she saw the chair next to Devin, she rushed over and made it to his side.

"Hold on a second! Let me help you with that!"

Without a second thought, she climbed her way up the chair and tiptoed to stop the suitcase from falling and injuring Devin.

That was the only thing she could think of to help the man since it was only a matter of time until the pent-up fatigue caught up to him and his sore arms.

Sasha thought of adjusting the suitcases as soon as the man moved his hands away from the falling one, but he seemed to be having his sweet time and had his eyes glued to her in silence.

What the hell is he doing? Wait! Is he staring at my chest?

When Sasha took a peek at Devin, she saw him staring at her chest and flushed in irritation, repeating the man's name to stop him, "Mr. Jadeson?"

Devin, whose mind was all over the place, finally snapped out of bewilderment and looked elsewhere the moment he returned to his senses.

He finally caught a glimpse of the difference in skin tone around her neck.

In spite of being anxious, her emotions were barely reflected on her face when her limbs had long turned stiff.

It seemed as if she had put on a mask. Nonetheless, it was a well-crafted mask as no one could tell the difference unless they were in close proximity to examine it.

Overwhelmed by the possibilities awaiting him, Devin had a hard time comprehending the truth.

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It was evident it wasn't an act as Stephen was on the verge of letting loose of his emotions after sharing the things he had been keeping to himself throughout the years.

Sebastian went dead silent and had his eyes glued to the pond. No one could possibly figure out the things he had in mind due to his deadpan look.

When Sasha saw the fishing rod vibrating, she rushed over and started jumping for joy in front of the duo.

"Mr. Hayes, look at the fishing rod! I think you have just caught a fish!"

Initially, Sebastian had no intention to reel in the fish, but he changed his mind and took over the fishing rod upon another glimpse at Sasha.

Swoosh!

He reeled in a fish that was at least a few pounds in weight in a matter of seconds.

Thrilled by the man's catch, Sasha exclaimed as if she was the one in the middle of a fishing session, "It's such a big fish!"

Stephen was influenced by the woman's sprightly behavior. He asked, "Dr. West, have you never tried fishing before this?"

Sasha squatted next to the fish and remarked with her eyes gleaming, "No! To be precise, this is the first time I have seen someone fishing! It's amazing!"

Her parents had never allowed her to indulge herself in leisure activities as such. She was required to attend different classes to nurture her talent whenever she was free. She was a member of the Hayes upon reaching adulthood. As soon as she gave birth to her children, she went abroad to stay away from the man.

Thus, she had never indulged herself in such a leisure activity to the point she couldn't move her eyes away from the fish.

Sebastian was at a loss for words and thought of warning her to stay away from the fish. He was disgusted by the thought of her smelling like a fish and showing up next to him.

However, Stephen suggested, "If that's the case, why don't you go ahead and give it a try, Dr. West?"

"Is that fine?"

Sebastian couldn't believe his ears because his uncle had just suggested for her to join them.

Things became lively as soon as Sasha joined the duo. She bombarded Sebastian with all sorts of questions every once in a while.

"Mr. Hayes, is this the proper way to reel in the fish?"

"Mr. Hayes, why aren't there any fish?"

"Mr. Hayes, is there something wrong with my bait?"

"Mr. Hayes-"

Unable to stand it anymore, Sebastian clenched his teeth and gasped out his reply, "Just keep quiet!"

The woman responded with an aggrieved look and took a seat next to them, staring at the pond in silence.

Is she even in her right mind? There's no way she's getting a fish when she's so loud! She's the one intimidating the fishes in the pond!

Stephen beamed in satisfaction as the duo continued bickering with one another. He had brought up Sebastian's father in an attempt to strike up a conversation with Sebastian.

To his surprise, Sebastian couldn't care less at all. Stephen couldn't stand it anymore—he thought of giving up since he was the one doing all the talking.

Things took a drastic turn of events the moment the woman showed up and insisted on joining them.

The seemingly irked young man volunteered to boil them another pot of water for the coffee, indicating he had no intention to wrap up the session just yet.

Sasha was on the verge of going berserk because she couldn't get her hands on any fish even after spending a few hours next to the pond.

What the heck? What on earth is wrong with me? This is so frustrating!

Unable to take it anymore, she sprang up from her seat, casting her fishing rod aside with all her might.

She marched in the direction of Sebastian's icebox and remarked, "That's it! I'm pretty sure it's your fishing rod doing the ticks! Just look at your catch versus mine!"

Sebastian, who had spent the past few hours with her, answered in a sarcastic manner, "You need to stop blaming others when you're the one intimidating the fishes."

What does he mean I'm intimidating the fishes when I'm just trying to figure out the proper way to fish? Am I not allowed to ask questions when I'm just a rookie?

She ignored him and brought him away with her.

"Are we leaving the fish behind?"

Sasha answered without turning back, "What? Are you trying to bring those fishes away with you when those belong to your uncle? It's not like there's anyone to serve you the fishes once you're home!"

Sebastian's lips twitched against his will because the woman seemed to have meant her words and brought him away with her without a second thought.

Truth be told, she was right—Sebastian's rod was the thing doing the tricks. After all, it was one of Stephen's many attempts to keep Sebastian engaged.

In the end, Sebastian stopped making a fuss and returned to the mansion since it was about time for dinner.

It was about time to leave after they had their meal.

Prior to their departure, Devin approached Sebastian, who had long taken a seat in the car, and urged, "Sebastian, you need to stop throwing a tantrum and making Dr. West's life miserable, okay? She truly cares about you. Also, she's Dr. Wallen's apprentice."

Staring at the woman trying to stuff the wheelchair into the boot, Sebastian remarked, "She's quite a remarkable woman, huh? You're already siding with her when it has merely been a few visits."

Devin's heart skipped a beat when he thought he shouldn't have brought those up. He stammered as he was at a loss for words to explain himself, "I-I..."

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As soon as she returned to Oceanic Estate with Sebastian, he alighted from the car through others' aid and wheeled himself into the mansion.

Shortly after she parked the car, she found out she was shut out of the mansion once again.

Staring at the shut-tight door, the confused Sasha yelled, "Mr. Hayes? Hello? I'm still out here! Why have you closed the door?"

He paid no heed to her and instructed others to wheel him around as soon as he made his way into the mansion.

In an attempt to figure out the things going on, Sasha approached the security guard and asked, "What's going on? Can you open the door for me?"

The security guard announced with an apologetic look, "I'm so sorry, Dr. West. He has made himself clear that you're not allowed to show up anywhere near the estate anymore."

Sasha was utterly dumbfounded by the drastic turn of events for the worse when things were just fine a few hours ago.

What's wrong with him? Why has he shut me out for no reason? Have I offended him? Why is he forbidding me from getting anywhere near the estate?

Is it because I have left the fishes behind? Does it have something to do with the fishing session in the afternoon?

Sasha was on the verge of losing her mind since he refused to open the door as much as she groveled herself at his mercy.

Oh, God! What on earth is wrong with this grumpy man?

Unable to think of anything to change Sebastian's mind, the upset Sasha had no choice but to make her way back to her apartment.

Once she returned, Karl gaped at the presence of the upset Sasha since her emotions were written all over her face. He asked, "Mrs. Hayes, is everything fine? Did you have a fight with Mr. Hayes again?"

"Technically, I'm not trying to start a fight, but I might have accidentally gotten on his nerves by leaving his fishes behind."

"H-Huh?" Karl couldn't believe his ears when Sasha told him the almighty Sebastian had gotten worked up over a trivial issue.

Is he seriously picking on others over such a trivial issue?

"Well, we'll just blame it on his illness! I'll go get him a freaking bucket of fish in the morning! We shall see if it's enough to please him!"

The equally frustrated Sasha stomped her way in the direction of the bathroom shortly after she shared her plan with Karl.

After hearing that, Karl couldn't help was amused by the change in his boss. I can't imagine he actually kicks a fuss over some fish.

Sasha wasn't particularly bothered, but when she thought of getting Sebastian a bucket of fish in the morning, she received a call.

The person on the other end announced as soon as Sasha picked up the call, "Mrs. Hayes, they almost gained access to the Jadesons' system, including Jonathan's computer. We were very close to losing it."

"What?"

When Sasha heard the news, she sprang up from the bed in the middle of the night and started reprimanding her sons in her mind.

Are they even in their right mind? How dare they try to hack the Jadesons' system, including Jonathan's computer?

Sasha was on the verge of losing her mind. She rushed out of her room and asked in a hushed voice, "What the heck is going on? Why have they tried something as reckless as such?"

The person on the other end of the call gasped out his reply, "I'm not sure, but it's safe to assume they have been plotting against the Jadesons behind everyone! If it weren't because of the system Mr. Hayes had set up in advance, I'm afraid the Jadesons have long figured out their presence by now!"

Sasha was very close to passing out when she thought of the things awaiting her had that been the case.

She was well aware of her brilliant sons' capabilities. Thus, she had instructed others to keep their eyes on them the moment she left them in their care.

They must have gotten increasingly fearless after being away from us for such a long time, huh? What the heck are they up to? Are they trying to expose themselves or something?

Have they any idea of the challenges I'm going through just to keep their father safe? They're going to be doomed if the Jadesons are aware of their presence!

Unable to calm herself anymore, she knocked on Karl's door the moment she hung up the call.

"Mr. Frost, something's wrong with Ian and Matteo!"

Karl was equally astonished when he heard of the bad news. He asked, "What's going on?"

Sasha repeated the timeline of the entire incident and said, "I need to make a trip to Miralaea to ensure everything's fine! Otherwise, I'm afraid they're going to make a mess and get everyone in trouble!"

"Mmm!" Karl was of the same idea, but he thought it wouldn't be wise for her to make the trip.

"It's going to be fine! It'll merely take three days at most! After all..."

She paused when she thought of the conflict she had with Sebastian. A few seconds later, she remarked, "Since the grumpy man doesn't want me anywhere near him, I'll just leave him alone for a few days."

Karl was about to say something, but he chose to keep those to himself. As soon as she had everything she needed ready, he drove her to the airport and dropped her off.

She might be the only one capable of persuading her brilliant sons. Thus, she had to make the trip to Miralaea over the night.

Sebastian's well-illuminated room at Oceanic Estate roused him from his sleep early in the morning.

"Mr. Hayes, do you need my help to get you out of bed?"

The housemaid, who had been anticipating Sebastian outside of his room, knocked on the door and asked when she heard him bringing himself up.

They were afraid of getting anywhere near Sebastian since he had the guts to pick on Jonathan as if it wasn't a big deal.

Thus, they were afraid of startling him and touching him without his consent in fear of getting yelled at by the man.

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The man remained silent for quite some time. A few minutes later, the housemaid heard someone closing in her direction.

The moment the man opened the door, the housemaid found out Sebastian had hopped his way out of bed with his only functioning leg.

Staring at the handsome man in front of him, she lost herself in a train of thought until she heard the man instructing her in a callous tone, "Go get my wheelchair over."

"0-0kay!"

The housemaid responded with a nod and rushed in the direction of the wheelchair she had gotten ready in advance.

Sebastian's injuries were no longer a big problem, but he still couldn't maneuver around as he wish. After all, his limbs had sustained quite serious injuries.

Shortly after he took a seat in his wheelchair, he wheeled himself in the direction of the elevator and made his way downstairs.

"Good morning, Mr. Sebastian!"

"Good morning, sir!"

As soon as he reached downstairs, the housemaids, who had long gotten themselves ready to serve him, greeted him in unison.

One of them brought him to the dining hall and served him all sorts of breakfast they had gotten ready beforehand.

As usual, the housemaids put on their gloves and started serving Sebastian the cutlery he might need for his meal.

However, he thought something was wrong when he recalled the breakfast he had yesterday.

The housemaid talked to him in a courteous manner, "Mr. Sebastian, we have all sorts of dishes ready for you. May I know if you prefer something light today?"

They were pretty mindful of their actions and refrained from touching the things on the table unless they were instructed to.

Nonetheless, Sebastian wasn't in the mood to savor the delicacies in front of him. In fact, he was slightly irked and brought himself away from the dining table after a few minutes.

"Mr. Sebastian?"

The handsome man instructed in a callous tone, "Get me a glass of water and bring it to the garden! It's time for the physio session!"

A few minutes later, a housemaid showed up with a glass of water and kept him company throughout the session.

When Jonathan showed up with others, they saw the perspiring man repeating the same action in an attempt to regain the ability to walk just like an ordinary man.

He could brace himself through the scorching sun and carry on with the session as though he couldn't care less about the heat.

Throughout the session, he continued raising his legs with all his might all while lifting the dumbbell with his arms.

He was completely drenched as if he had just returned from a swimming session.

Tony remarked with a satisfied beam, "Mr. Jadeson, at the end of the day, Mr. Sebastian is still the heir of the Jadesons, the son of the most exceptional Jadesons throughout the history of the family! There's no way Mr. Sebastian is going to give up on himself!"

Although Jonathan was of the same idea, he had no intention to express his thoughts in front of others. Thus, he remarked, "I'm afraid he's up to no good again!"

Huh... What's wrong with him? Can't he stay true to himself?

When Tony was about to carry on with the conversation after making their way to the living room, a housemaid approached them and announced, "Sir, Mr. Devin's mother is here. Are we supposed to let her in?"

"What brings her here today?" Jonathan's frustration was written all over his face the moment he found out his daughter-in-law had shown up.

The housemaid explained, "She has brought along quite a few things and her niece with her. Her niece is the one with exceptional culinary skills."

Tony, who was next to Jonathan throughout the conversation, responded with his eyes gleaming and suggested, "Is she the one in charge of the state banquet of the White House? If she's the one, why don't you get her to prepare your dinner?"

Jonathan was tempted when he heard Tony's suggestion. After all, he wouldn't get to savor the delicacies on a daily basis.

In the end, he beckoned the housemaid to show them the way into the living room.

"Dad, I can't believe you're here! Stephen told me you might be here prior to my departure, but I thought he had been pulling my leg again!" Jasmine started flattering her father-in-law as soon as she stepped into the foyer with her niece.

As a matter of fact, she had always been the same—she would do everything just to keep her influence over others.

Jonathan looked at her and asked, "What brings you here today?"

As soon as she heard her father-in-law's question, she started introducing her niece, "Kira's finally back! She doesn't really get to take a day off from the White House! Since you had always been a huge fan of her culinary skills, I thought of bringing her along with me!"

Kira was a renowned chef in Jadeborough. Although she was relatively young, she managed to prove herself worthy with her exceptional culinary skills. She was in charge of the White House's state banquets over the years.

"Hello, Mr. Jadeson. It has been such a long time since our last meeting. I hope you're doing fine," Kira courteously greeted Jonathan as soon as her aunt introduced her to the rest in the living room.

Upon a simple glimpse at the young lady, Jonathan found out she did a great job carrying herself in an elegant manner.

It might have something to do with the fact she had to engage herself in a conversation with leaders of foreign nations as well.

Jonathan greeted her in return, "I'm doing just fine. I can't wait to see the sort of surprises you have in store for me."