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"What do you mean you don't know? What were you holding in your hands? Why are you stealing his kale soup? What are your intentions?" Roderick asked with a menacing look in his eyes.

Sasha stared back at him, her face as white as a sheet.

I know that look... He's afraid and panicking! This proves that Matteo was right about him!

"I'm not stealing anything, Uncle Roderick! Matteo said you guys make amazing desserts, so he wanted me to try some of it. That's why he brought me some. I can give it back to you if you want..." Sasha said weakly as she retrieved the glass bottle that Matteo had given her earlier.

What? She's actually giving it back to me? Was I just overthinking things?

Roderick stared at the glass bottle in confusion, unsure of what she was playing at.

Sasha knew he had fallen for it and quickly gave Matteo a nudge. "Go on, Matt. Give this back to your grand-uncle."

Matteo wasn't sure why they were giving it back to the man as it wasn't easy getting that sample, but he did as told anyway.

"Here you go!" he said while shoving the glass bottle into Roderick's hand.

Roderick stared blankly at it for a moment, and whatever suspicions he had disappeared in that instant.

Maybe I really am overthinking it...

With that in mind, he flashed Sasha an apologetic smile and helped her to her feet. "I'm so sorry, Sasha. I thought you had some ulterior motives or something for taking this, so I got anxious and freaked out a little. Are you hurt?"

"No, I'm okay."

Sasha shook her head, acting perfectly fine.

Something is definitely wrong with this soup! I mean, why else would he get so worked up about me taking it away? Good thing I was able to resolve this issue before it got any worse!

Matteo was still confused as to what had happened. He waited till they left the scene before asking, "Mommy, why did you give the bottle back to Uncle Roderick? Couldn't we hand it over to Grandpa?"

"No, Matt. We don't have any evidence to prove anything yet. Besides, we could both be in danger if your great-uncle gets desperate," Sasha explained while clutching her still aching tummy.

What she didn't tell him was the fact that she had secretly stored some of it in her pocket during the chaos earlier.

It's probably going to dry up, but it should be enough for Roxanne to analyze...

Frederick tried having them stay for a meal, but Sasha insisted on leaving with her kids.

"Why'd she leave in such a hurry, Tim? Do you think she's still mad at me? Is that why she won't even stick around for a meal?" Frederick asked, feeling upset that they had refused to stay.

Tim could only try his best to reassure the man by saying, "It takes time. The fact that she's bringing her kids here to see you of her own accord is a sign of progress. We should just give her a bit more time to get used to it."

Frederick felt slightly better after hearing that. "Yeah, you're right. We mustn't pressure her into anything."

Meanwhile, Sebastian too had heard of what happened when he was about to leave his office.

They went over to the Hayes residence?

He placed his pen down immediately upon receiving the news and asked Luke, "What was the purpose of her visit? Is that old man causing her trouble again?"

Whoa, why such a huge reaction?

"No, she brought the boys over by herself. Maybe they wanted to visit and asked her to take them there."

Luke was quick to reassure him, but Sebastian snorted in response. "Heh, you actually believe that crap?"

He then tossed his work aside and grabbed his car keys from the drawer before heading out.

He's right... Given how they're at loggerheads with each other, it's highly unlikely for them to want to visit...

Luke was lost in thought as he stayed back to take care of the documents Sebastian had left on the table.

Sebastian rushed back to the villa and went upstairs looking for Sasha and the kids.

"Where are they, Wendy?"

"Ah, you're back early today, Mr. Hayes! Ms. Wand has brought the boys over to Ms. Rocke's." Wendy was surprised to see Sebastian come home that early.

They went over to Roxanne's?

Sebastian frowned and asked, "Why did she go to Roxanne's? Also, I heard she went over to the Hayes residence earlier in the afternoon. What was she doing there?"

Wendy shook her head. "I don't know, but she came home pretty soon and headed off to Ms. Rocke's right after."

For some reason, hearing that irritated him so much that he had lost interest in what she was doing.

Why should I bother trying to find out? Everything she does is simply for the sake of taking care of things here, including that old man, so she can go to Moranta and revive the Wand family!

He thought to himself as he stared blankly into the distance with an icy-cold look in his eyes.

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Meanwhile, Sasha was in Roxanne's laboratory.

"Are the results out yet?"

"Yeah, this sample does contain the same fungus Matteo was infected with. How did you get this?" Roxanne asked curiously after taking a glance at the sample under the microscope.

Where on earth did she get this from?

Naturally, Sasha wasn't about to tell her the truth.

Instead, she was trembling all over with rage after hearing what Roxanne said.

Why? He's their grand-uncle for crying out loud! Why would he do such a thing to a five-year-old child? Also, Matteo said he only drank it because Ian had gotten sick each time he went there. That means he's also been doing that to Ian this whole time! Damn it! Now I'm really pissed!

Roxanne found it strange when she saw how angry Sasha looked. "Hey, what's gotten into you? Don't tell me you got yourself all injured just to obtain this sample?"

Consumed by rage, Sasha wasn't in the mood to answer any of her questions and stormed off shortly after, leaving Roxanne dumbfounded.

"What the hell is her problem? Who does she think she is, coming and going as she pleases... I can't believe I'm doing this for her!" she grumbled to herself.

Sasha ignored her and headed straight home with the kids afterward.

Hmm? He's home?

There was a sharp glint in her eye as she noticed the black Bentley parked in the villa's garage.

"Wendy, is Mr. Hayes home?"

"Yeah, he's upstairs. He was just asking about you..."

Sasha was rushing the stairs before Wendy could finish her sentence. She was in such a hurry that she even forgot about her kids at the front door.

Jeez, why is she in such a hurry?

Wendy pondered as she attended to the kids.

Sasha went straight to Sebastian's bedroom and shouted angrily, "Sebastian? Are you in there? I have something very important to talk to you about!"

There was no response, and it seemed as if no one was in the bedroom.

How strange... Didn't Wendy say he's upstairs? His car is parked outside too!

Sasha decided to check the bedroom, only to see Sebastian step out of the shower with only a towel around his waist.

"Ah!"

The woman quickly covered her eyes with her hands. "Why are you taking a shower during the day? Also, why didn't you get dressed before coming out of the bathroom?"

What the hell is she going on about? I'm in my own bedroom, so why do I have to get dressed before coming out of the shower? Also, what's wrong with taking a shower during the day?

Sebastian thought to himself as he stared emotionlessly at Sasha. "You've already seen every inch of my body, so why are you covering your eyes now?"

Sasha burned bright red instantly upon hearing that and decided to make a run for it.

This guy is unbelievable!

"I...I'll come back later!" she stammered as she turned around, but Sebastian grabbed her by the arm and spun her around before she could even reach the doorknob.

"What was it that you wanted to tell me?" he asked, looking like a ridiculously hot mess as he stared at her with water trickling down his body.

To make matters worse, his deep and masculine voice simply added to his existing sexiness.

Sasha swallowed nervously and tried her best to avert her gaze as she mumbled, "I...It's about Matt's illness... I found out that it was Uncle Roderick who poisoned them..."

Hearing that snapped Sebastian out of his lustful state of mind. "What did you say?"

Sasha then pulled out the laboratory report and handed it over to him, blushing as she said, "H-Here, take a look at this... This is the desert I stole from the Hayes residence today. He was going to give it to Matteo earlier, so I brought some of it back and had Roxanne run a test on it."

The look on Sebastian's face was as cold as ice as he took the report over and skimmed through it.

"So, this is why you went over to the Hayes residence today?"

"Yeah! Little Ian told Matteo he got sick whenever he went over to Uncle Roderick's, so Matteo decided to give it a shot, and he ended up falling sick too. That's why I went there today to confirm if their suspicions are true!" Sasha explained.

Rage filled her eyes when she got to the part about what Roderick did, and she looked like she wanted to chop him up into tiny pieces.

That f*cking heartless b*stard!

Sebastian, too, had a terrifying look on his face when he heard that.