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The Love that Never Really Dies chapter 215 - 218

Immediately after Sasha returned to her bedroom, she banged the door shut and locked herself in for quite some time.

Meanwhile, the two little boys in the bathroom on the second floor were still waiting for their mother to deliver their underwears. After a long time, Matteo, who was in the bathtub, blinked his eyes and asked his brother, "Ian, why isn't Mommy back yet?"

Ian, who was right opposite Matteo in the tub, gave it a thought and said, "Daddy is nowhere to be seen either."

The boys exchanged a look of disbelief as a mutual thought flashed across their minds.

Their eyes gleamed in excitement; joy was written all over their faces. They wouldn't mind going on commando if their parents, the adults they were concerned of the most, could spend more time together.

The two boys jumped in exhilaration in the tub.

On the other hand, things were the complete opposite for the Emmanuel family.

Emmanuel Residence was built in Imperial Garden in the east of the city. If Hayes Corporation hadn't been pulling the strings behind the scenes, Imperial Garden would be just another premium residential area.

However, because of the Hayes, it became an exclusive property because the residents might get the chance to be affiliated with the Hayes if they stayed in the said estate.

Matilda had been acting as the informal leader of the residential area for decades by using her status as one of the Hayes.

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Nevertheless, someone seemed to have challenged her authority and picked on her family members.

“Mom, it’s Sasha! If she hadn’t brought her children to the theater, Johnny wouldn’t pick on them! We wouldn’t have offended Sebastian as well! Sasha was the one behind our misfortunes!”

Jasmine started weeping in front of Matilda the moment she reached Emmanuel Residence. She blamed Sasha for their misery, but mentioned nothing about the things her son did.

Her husband played along with her and complained, “I can vouch for her, Matilda! Philips was there as well! He knew Johnny did nothing wrong. Even if Johnny did pick on his sons, Sebastian shouldn’t have liquidated the shares over such a trivial matter!”

Sasha?

Matilda, who was sitting on the couch in the living room, slammed the cup she had in her hand to the ground when she heard of the incident.

“The first thing she does after she makes her way back from hell is to pick on me?”

Philip’s wife, the middle-aged woman who had picked on Sasha in the theater, decided to chime in. “Mom, there’s more! I heard Sabrina was chased out of the Hayes because of Sasha! Up until now, no one knows of her exact whereabouts.”

Matilda’s wrinkled face puckered in irritation, forming a horrendous look.

She couldn’t suppress her frustration. Those around Matilda could feel her murderous intent as she felt a strong urge to devour Sasha and vent her anger.

“Sasha! I’m coming for you! Let’s go! I believe it’s time to pay her a visit!”

She brought herself up from the couch and was about to head over to Hayes Residence to confront Frederick to settle the scores once and for all.

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However, when she was about to reach the entrance, a housemaid announced, "Madam, someone who addressed herself as Ms. Green has shown up and requested an audience with you."

Ms. Green?

Matilda wasn't in the mood to entertain any guest. "Who is it? I don't know her! Tell her to come some other day!"

"E-Er..."

"Mom! Ms. Green? Could it be Sebastian's fiancée? I think she is a member of the Green family."

Philip, who had been keeping quiet by the side, reminded his mother.

Green! I think she is Xandra Green!

Matilda asked the housemaid to show the guest the way to the living room and dismissed the rest. Sitting on the couch in an ostentatious manner to assert dominance as the matriarch of the family, she was the only one left in the spacious living room.

When Kelly made her way into the living room and saw Matilda's intimidating posture, she sneered deep down.

She's merely living off the Hayes, yet she's behaving like she's the one in power! Does she really think can deceive me? If we don't need this pawn, I won't bother to waste my time with her!

Deep down, Kelly despised Matilda, but she put on an enthusiastic front and greeted the latter with a bright grin when she entered the living room.

"Aunt Matilda, it has been such a long time! I hope you're doing great!"

Kelly was a top-notch socialite, capable of buttering up others to do her biddings. However, Matilda showed no signs of carrying on with the conversation at all.

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She sat right where she was without bothering to conceal her frustration at the guest's presence.

"Shall we cut the small talk and talk about the reason you're here today?"

Kelly felt humiliated because she had gone to great lengths to put on the show.

This old hag...

She took a seat on the couch and smiled as though Matilda's harsh remark at all did not bother her.

"What else could it be, Aunt Matilda? I'm here for the future of our families! Someone told me about the conflict between Sebastian and your family the moment my flight touched down! I rushed my way here from the airport because I was worried about you!"

Conflict?

Matilda sneered, "What sort of conflict are you talking about? He's my nephew. Do you really think he will hold a grudge against me? Let's assume something's going on between us. Who are you to poke your nose into our business?"

Not seeing the need to be courteous, she blurted out the things she had in her mind.

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Kelly shot daggers at the old hag. The senile old fool seemed to be unaware of the things that would befall her soon.

She stopped behaving courteously and said sarcastically, "Oh? Isn't Hayes Corporation going to liquidate their share from Eternal Group soon? I guess there's nothing much I can do about it since I'm merely an outsider. However, since my niece is going to be Mrs. Hayes soon, I feel obligated to drop by and see if there's anything I can offer. I guess that won't be necessary, huh? I guess I'll excuse myself."

Kelly got up from the couch and brought her bag along with her in an attempt to leave.

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Matilda's expression changed because she forgot the cunning woman's niece was Sebastian's fiancée.

Although her brother, Frederick, was never fond of Xandra's presence, there wasn't anything he could do about it since Sebastian insisted on having Xandra as his fiancée.

When finally softened her approach and asked, "How can you be so certain? Sasha has returned, and she's right in my nephew's house as we speak."

"You're not wrong, but their children are the sole reason she's given the opportunity to move in. They are the foundation of their relationship."

Matilda had her doubts. "Are you sure?"

As Matilda indicated her will to carry on with the conversation, Kelly took a seat. "Of course! Xandra will soon be a member of the Hayes! You do remember Mr. Hayes has requested Xandra to make a trip back and attend your birthday party on his behalf, don't you? Are you not aware of the meaning behind his decision?"

Kelly played the trump card she had been hiding up her sleeves.

Indeed, as Frederick has given his consent, nothing could possibly get in the way of Xandra and Sebastian's marriage.

On top of that, they have always been a lovely pair in front of others. I guess it's only a matter of time before Xandra becomes a member of the Hayes.

Matilda finally found Kelly's words credible. "Great! I'll be waiting for the day your niece becomes the glorious Mrs. Sebastian Hayes! When the time comes, I hope you won't forget the Emmanuels!"

"That's but of course, Matilda! As long as she becomes Mrs. Hayes, I'll get her to refinance Eternal Group again. However..."

Halfway through her conversation, Kelly paused and arched her brows. Her concerns were written all over her face.

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Matilda had always been an impulsive woman. Therefore, she pressed on and asked with an irritated look, "What? Hurry up and tell me what's bothering you!"

"I'm afraid Sasha is going to get in their way. If only we can stop her from setting foot in Hayes Residence..." Kelly replied with a sheepish grin.

"You want to get rid of her once and for all? Are you sure you're not asking the impossible? She's the mother of Sebastian's children. You can never stop her from seeing her children."

"Exactly! That's why we need to get Sebastian to stop her! I believe it can be easily resolved if we're able to sow discord between them and get Sebastian to chase her out."

Kelly enunciated her reply with a vicious-looking sneer, like a wicked witch who couldn't wait to get the better of her prey.

She wants to get Sebastian to chase Sasha away? How is she going to achieve that? Sasha's the mother of Sebastian's children. I can't think of anything that's going to allow us to stop her from meeting the children... unless she has committed a serious sin!

Peering at Kelly's pair of gleaming eyes, Matilda felt a chill running down her spine when she thought of the things that would soon befall Sasha.

Meanwhile, Sasha had been staying away from Sebastian for past two days after they kissed.

She would get everything sorted out as soon as possible and returned to her bedroom before his return. Thus, every time Sebastian reached home in the evening, she was nowhere to be seen.

In the morning, he wouldn't get to see Sasha because she would stay in her room until he left for work.

She behaved as though she was a thief who was up to no good and would sneak her way out of her room after he left.

It had been the same for the past two days.

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Their children gathered together and discussed the strange occurrence.

“What’s wrong with Daddy and Mommy? Why is Mommy trying to stay away from Daddy?”

“I think she has done something silly again!” Vivian concluded their mother was the one at fault again.

Meanwhile, Matteo and Ian exchanged glances upon hearing their sister’s words.

If she has done something silly, so be it! Why is she running away from Daddy? Could it be she was embarrassed?

In order to ensure they would get to live a blissful life as a family, the two little boys thought it was necessary to talk about it with their mother.

However, the day they dropped by her room, they noticed she was in the middle of cleaning up her room. She packed her clothes and daily necessities into a compressed suitcase that almost exploded from the sheer amount of things.

“Mommy, what are you doing?” Ian, who had always been a boy of few words, asked anxiously.

“Ian, it had been a long while since we moved here. I believe it’s time for us to return home,” Sasha explained the reason behind the mess in her room.

Huh? They’re leaving?

The sprightly Matteo strode over and queried concernedly, “Mommy, why are we heading back? What’s wrong with staying here? I enjoy staying here with everyone!”

Vivian nodded vigorously. “He’s right, Mommy! I enjoy staying here as well!”

Her children’s reply rendered Sasha speechless. She couldn’t think of the proper way to explain the reason behind their departure. After all, she couldn’t possibly tell them things had spiraled out of her control, and she felt slightly clueless after kissing Sebastian.

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Sasha made up her mind to deceive her children. Meanwhile, Ian didn't want his mother to leave and got in touch with Sebastian to tell him about her plan.

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"Daddy, are you having a fight with Mommy again? Why is she trying to run away from home?"

Sasha's eyes widened in disbelief.

What does he mean by I'm trying to run away from home? I'm merely going back home, okay? Can Ian phrase his sentences properly and be mindful of his choice of words?

As soon as the startled Sasha took over the little boy's smartwatch, she heard Sebastian's low and hoarse voice. "What do you mean she's running away from home? Where is she going?"

"I don't know, Daddy!" Ian replied petulantly.

Sasha wanted to explain she would be making a trip back to her leased apartment instead of running away from home, but seconds after she lost herself in a train of thoughts, she heard the man's voice from the other end of the conversation again.

Perhaps Sebastian was aware Ian was frustrated. He chuckled and instructed the little boy, "Ian, go tell the bodyguards to keep an eye on your mother, okay? Tell them if they let her get away, I'll break their legs once I'm home."

Sasha was completely stunned while her children rushed out of the room after they heard their father's instructions.

They approached the bodyguards and repeated their father's instructions to keep their mother grounded against her will.

That scum must have been possessed by an evil spirit, hasn't he?

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Sasha had no choice but to spend another day at the spacious villa with her beloved children.

In the evening, Sebastian finally arrived home.

Sasha, who was cleaning up the living room after playing with her children, was about to sprint up the stairs. Unfortunately, it was too late. He had walked into the foyer with a bunch of files and a laptop.

“Where are you going? Come over and hold this for me.”

“O-Oh... O-Okay...”

Sasha finally brought herself up and dreaded her steps over, holding the bunch of files and the laptop he had with him.

Sebastian had to deal with all sorts of things. Occasionally, he would bring some documents home and carry on with the unfinished work at home.

Oddly, Luke, who would usually tag along with him, was nowhere to be seen.

Holding on to the things he had handed over to her, Sasha stood right where she was rigidly and avoided the man’s gaze at all costs. She couldn’t wait to hand the things back to the man after he changed into a pair of indoor sandals.

She was on the verge of breaking down, but he showed no signs of retrieving his things.

Instead, he looked down upon her and held his chest high while delivering his instructions, muttering in a callous tone, “Bring those upstairs for me.”

“Huh?” Sasha arched her brows in confusion. But the man with a slender pair of legs had long departed after he made himself clear.

She braced herself and brought the documents upstairs as demanded.

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As it was the last quarter of the year, Sasha didn't have a lot of things on her schedule. She spent most of her time trimming the blooming flowers in the garden and decorated the entire villa with pots of exuberant-looking flowers.

She was also the one who had placed two pots of flower with incandescent colors on the stairwell. As they made their way up the dimly illuminated stairs, their long shadows could be seen shading the flowers.

When Sebastian returned to his study, he switched on the light and the heater before removing his jacket.

The woman behind him entered the room and asked, "W-Where should I put this?"

"On the table," Sebastian replied gently as though he was afraid scaring her.

Nonetheless, it didn't stop the horrified woman from fleeing. After she placed the things on the table, she scurried out of the room again.

When Sasha was merely a step away from the entrance, she heard the man's callous voice.

"Come over here. I believe it's time for us to talk about the things that are bothering you."

"Huh?" Sasha stopped right where she was.

W-What could it possibly be?

The helpless woman stood right where she was and thought she could hear her heart racing ferociously once again.

She knew she was being a coward.

Over the past five years, she held a grudge against him and blamed him for her misery. She shouldn't have been so flustered just because he showed signs of improvement.

Regardless, she succumbed to the man's attractiveness over and over again.

She couldn't help but curse herself for being such a useless woman.

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“What happened in the morning? Where were you planning to go?”

“I-I’m not going anywhere... I-I just think it’s about time for me to move back to the leased apartment with Matt and Vivi... You said it wouldn’t be safe for me to stay there since Sabrina was still out there, but since she’s no longer around. I guess it’s time for us...” she stuttered while avoiding the man’s gaze.

Sebastian frowned.

How did she figure out Sabrina is no longer around? Who told her that?

His expression darkened. Within seconds, the temperature of the room fell drastically from the tension.

“Let’s assume Sabrina is no longer around. Why would you want to move back? Have I not made myself clear previously? I don’t want them to grow up in a single-parent household. It’s going to affect their growth!”

“B-But I can’t stay here forever!” she blurted.

Then she returned to her usual timid self and continued, “You’re supposed to move on with your life... Besides, it has been a long time since your fiancée’s last visit. I’m afraid she’s going to be mad if she knows I’m here.”

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The very moment she brought up Xandra, she felt her heart wrenching subconsciously.

Sebastian didn’t expect she would bring Xandra up out of the blue.

Xandra? Is that the reason she’s making a fuss for no apparent reasons?

The man finally eased up. A barely noticeable smirk appeared on his face. He seemed to be up to something in his mind.

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“Are you jealous?” Sebastian asked in return.

“What? Me? Why would I be jealous?”

“Aren’t you going to leave because of my fiancée?”

His expression confused Sasha, and she couldn’t form a complete sentence to reply to him.

Indeed, Xandra was one of the many reasons she no longer wished to stay around.

However, she deemed it over the top to describe her departure as making a fuss out of jealousy.

The initially embarrassed Sasha got infuriated. “No! Why would I be jealous? She has nothing to do with me! I just don’t think it’s convenient for me to stay around any longer!”

“What’s bothering you? It’s my villa, isn’t it?”

“There’s nothing bothering me as of now, but we can’t be certain things will be the same in the near future, right?”

“I can assure you it will always be the same.”

To Sasha’s surprise, when Sebastian was confronted, he assured her nothing would change.

It will always be the same? What is that supposed to mean? That woman is his fiancée. How are things supposed to remain the same when she’ll eventually move in? Previously, he couldn’t wait to file for divorce with me because he wanted to get married to her as soon as possible!

Does that mean they’re going to move to somewhere else after they’re married? Is that the reason he couldn’t be bothered by her presence and say things will remain the same?

Sasha’s heart skipped a beat.

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She clenched her fists as colors drained from her face.

"I know..."

Judging by her expression, he knew she had misunderstood him again.

Crossing his slender pair of legs, he explained himself once more. "Are you sure? Haven't I made myself clear? For the sake of our children, I won't file for divorce with you for the time being. In other words, I won't be getting married to another woman anytime soon."

She's always been a smart woman. What has gotten into her mind and turned her into such a fool today?

Seconds after she heard his words, her glistening pair of eyes gleamed in excitement.

"Y-You're not going to marry her?"

"Yes."

"W-Why? Don't you love her? Haven't you been waiting for her over the years? Why are you giving up when you're merely a step away from your ideal life?"

Sasha blabbered in confusion. Unable to get a grip of herself, it was evident the man's reply overwhelmed her.

The news of him calling off his marriage with Xandra had taken Sasha by surprise, but it seemed to be a relatively trivial matter for Sebastian.

He looked at the confused woman with a poker face. "Since when have I said I would marry her? Sasha, the only ones I care about are my children! Do you think I can start a new family and forsake my children's wellbeing like you?"

Suddenly, he was mocking her again.

Meanwhile, Sasha's mind went completely blank for a few seconds because Sebastian had misrepresented the facts as well.

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Since when have I started a new family with another man and forsaken our children's wellbeing? You're my one and only legal spouse!

Although Sasha was speechless, she had no intention to return his sarcastic remark because she was in a great mood.

Nonetheless, she decided to tease him in return. "You can always marry another woman and stop blaming me. It's not like I'm trying to get in your way!"

The confused and helpless Sasha was nowhere to be seen as she had returned to her usual sprightly and sarcastic self. A gorgeous smile could be seen on her beautiful face.

"Ha!" Sebastian scoffed.

All of a sudden, a little girl yelled from the stairway, "Mommy! Where are you? I need you!"

When she found out she was being summoned, Sasha was about to tend to her daughter, but the man behind her said, "You're not allowed to hide from me in the future!"

Sasha staggered and almost accidentally fell to the ground.

After the conversation they had in the evening, she stopped talking about leaving.

Similarly, she stopped staying away from him as instructed and got along with him as usual.

Since it was the end of the year, Sebastian had a lot of tasks on his plate. He didn't have time to deal with the family affairs. Sasha was the one who had to deal with those on his behalf.

For instance, she would have to get everything ready for Matilda's birthday party

"Ms. Wand, I don't think Mr. Hayes has any intention to attend the birthday party. Why don't you head over on his behalf with the children?"

Wendy ruled out the possibilities of Sebastian's reply and told Sasha not to get her hopes high.

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Sasha frowned. She loathed the idea.

Although Frederick had invited her to join him, she could foresee the outcome due to her messed-up relationship with Matilda.

Since she played a part in the Emmanuels' misfortunes, she made the call to be absent as well.

A few days later, Royal Court One received an invitation card from the Emmanuel family. It almost seemed as though they knew none of them would take part in the birthday party and decided to pay Sebastian and Sasha a visit in person to deliver the invitation.

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