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That Can Be Arranged chapter 21

Chapter 21 Gregory's Music Teacher

"Greg likes you. While you may not be aware of this, Greg is a child who loves to keep to himself so much that he's been diagnosed with mild autism. He doesn't like to associate with anyone else, but you seem to be his exception, which means you're special to him. So, if you stay, you could perhaps change Greg's life for the better."

Upon hearing that, Tessa was touched, yet surprised at the same time because she didn't expect that something so dramatic would befall an adorable child like Gregory. How could something like this ever happen to this cute little boy? Look at his smile. He is such a lovely child!

Soon, Gregory sensibly approached Tessa and hugged her lap, sincerely begging her not to leave. "Miss Pretty Lady, please be my music teacher, would you? You're so good at playing the violin, and I want to learn from you."

As soon as Tessa heard the boy's adorable voice, she naturally cast all her doubts aside. Not knowing well, she couldn't bring herself to turn down Gregory's request, so she nodded and replied, "Alright, I'll stay and be your teacher."

Gregory was delighted, evident in his blushed cheeks and happy look. "This is awesome! I'll be able to see you every day then, Miss Pretty Lady."

Tessa smiled, for her mood lifted when she saw Gregory's exhilaration.

In that instant, Nicholas unknowingly curled his lips upward for a split second just before his smile disappeared. He then stood up and said, "Well, now that you've accepted my offer, I suppose you could start your first lesson today, Miss Reinhart. I still have some business to attend to in the office, so I'm going to leave Greg in your hands."

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“Alright.” Tessa agreed without much hesitation, thinking she should just obey her employer’s wishes. Furthermore, she reckoned she had just moved on since she had already forgiven him after he apologized.

On the other hand, Nicholas was about to leave home, but before he did that, he spoke to Andrew and said, “Keep an eye on Tessa for me. If she ever acts strangely, I want you to let me know immediately.”

“Sure.” The butler nodded but felt stunned and wondered whether Nicholas still didn’t trust Tessa.

When Nicholas returned to his office, he gave Edward an order. “I want to buy the Heavenly Chorus Orchestra over. Get it done as soon as you can now!”

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“Alright, President Sawyer.” Edward heard his instruction and went ahead to do as he was told without asking any more questions.

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Meanwhile, Tessa proceeded to conduct her first lesson with Gregory not long after Nicholas left his home, Dynasty Garden. Able to play the piano well, Gregory demonstrated a good memory and understanding of music theories, which made Tessa feel grateful because it would make her job a lot easier.

At the same time, the butler, Andrew, secretly observed Tessa but failed to notice anything wrong with her as she taught Gregory with patience and dedication. I don’t understand. She is showing traits of a good teacher, so what could go wrong with that?

In the meantime, Nicholas was occupied with several meetings throughout the morning before going through dozens of documents, which barely left him with any free time.

When he finally had his break in the afternoon, Stefania called to remind him of something. “Nicholas, you need to pick Roselle up at the airport in another half an hour. I have already given her your number, so she’ll contact you by then.”

After hearing that, Nicholas didn’t say anything, only answered briefly, “Alright, I heard you.” Upon hanging up the call, he gave Edward an instruction. “Prep the car. We’re heading to the airport now.”

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Edward nodded in response. Ten minutes later, Nicholas received a phone call from Roselle when he was on his way to the airport. "Hello, Nicholas. This is Roselle speaking."

The lady on the other side of the phone introduced herself with a soothing and gentle voice, but Nicholas somehow felt nothing about it. Instead, he even found it uncomfortable to hear her address him by his first name. Thus, he frowned and asked coldly, "Is this Miss Gingham?"

Roselle paused and continued her speech in a tender manner. "I'm so sorry for the sudden call if I did interrupt you, but I wanted to let you know that my mom and I just arrived after our flight touched down not long ago. I heard from Stefania that you'd be picking us up, so I was hoping you could bring Greg along... Because I haven't seen him in a while.

Besides, I didn't manage to make it back in time during his birthday back then, so I got him a present and would like to give it to him in person. Is that perhaps possible?" Roselle spoke with a gentle voice that no one else could bear to reject in Nicholas' place.

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Chapter 22 A Surprising Presence

Any man would succumb to my soothing voice!

Roselle was confident with her voice, believing Nicholas would soften up upon hearing it.

Nonetheless, Nicholas didn't seem to feel anything when he heard the lady's words. After all, he was a man who preferred living his life as a bachelor, and he wasn't interested in women at all. Thus, Roselle's voice didn't really do its trick and work on him.

Furthermore, he could sense something awry about being sent to the airport by his mother, but despite his unhappiness, he didn't turn down Roselle's sudden request. "Alright, I'll bring

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Greg along later.” Nicholas gave a calm reply, which put a smile on Roselle’s face on the other side of the phone.

After the phone call ended, Nicholas called his butler, who was at Dynasty Garden. “Andrew, please bring Greg to the airport.”

...

On the other hand, Gregory showed strong reluctance when he learned that his father wanted him to leave home. He then hugged Tessa with a stubborn look on his face while acting up. “No, I’m not going anywhere. I want to be with Miss Pretty Lady.”

Helpless, Andrew tried his best to persuade the boy. “But Master Nicholas has made it clear that you must be there, so you’ll only make it difficult for me if you won’t come along...”

Gregory reacted with a bitter expression on his face, but after a short hesitation, he turned his attention to Tessa and asked, “Miss Pretty Lady, would you come along with me?”

“What?” Tessa was stunned as she was prompted by her subconsciousness to say no, but before anything could come out of her mouth, she was interrupted by the boy.

Gregory murmured and said, “I want Miss Pretty Lady to be with me! If you don’t come along, then I won’t go anywhere.”

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When Andrew heard that, he turned his gaze to Tessa. “Miss Reinhart, please come with us.”

“Alright then.” Tessa was amused yet helpless but eventually decided to go along with the butler.

Half an hour later, they arrived at the airport, where they met up with Nicholas. When Nicholas noticed Tessa’s presence, he couldn’t help but feel stunned about it.

Tessa awkwardly said, “It was Greg who insisted that I tagged along...”

“Yes, it was my idea for Miss Pretty Lady to come along.” Greg made his point clear by emphasizing it once more.

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Meanwhile, Nicholas fixed his gaze on the boy and Tessa without saying a single word more but somehow decided it wouldn't make any difference anyway. While the man was pondering, Roselle and her mother, Yana, showed up with their luggage at the airport's gate. Standing in place with his body straight, he greeted the two ladies just when they got closer. "Hello, Mrs. Gingham. Hello, Miss Gingham."

"Long time no see, Nicholas." Roselle curled her lips upward and smiled gracefully, just as her beautiful make-up accentuated her aura as the daughter of a prestigious family. At that moment, she looked at Nicholas with the admiration she could barely hide.

Oh gosh! This guy looks so much more handsome and outstanding than he did a few years ago. Not only is he gorgeous and decent-looking, but he is also giving off a manly aura. I guess there is a reason why he is the one I have had a crush on for years, but the only sad thing is the way he addresses me. He is making us sound like strangers, doesn't he?

"Oh wow! We haven't met for years, but now you look like a successful and talented businessman, Nicholas. Now that you're running the Sawyer Group, you seem even more manly and capable to me, which reminds me of your father when he was younger. In fact, it seems to me that your charm can match his back then." Soon, Yana, who was dressed like a typical rich man's wife, joined the conversation and complimented Nicholas while keeping her eyes on him.

"Thanks for the compliment," Nicholas coldly answered and waved at Gregory. "Come here and say hi, Greg."

Upon hearing that, Gregory came closer and greeted the adults politely. "Hello, Mrs. Gingham. Hello, Miss Gingham." In spite of his courteous greetings, his tone somehow sounded rather cold and indifferent, as if there was an estrangement between them.

On the other hand, Roselle smiled and approached Gregory when she saw him. "Oh gosh! You've grown so tall, Greg. You're such an adorable kid who looks just like your father. I'm Roselle, by the way, and I even carried you in my arms before when you were little, but I doubt you remember it!" She then stretched out her arm to pinch the boy's cheek, only to be met with a reaction that would leave her embarrassed.

It turned out that Gregory dodged the lady's hand with a long face and a pair of furrowed brows while clearly expressing his dislike for Roselle, who froze awkwardly in response.

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Chapter 23 Not a Job for You

Upon witnessing the awkwardness, Yana immediately tried to defuse the situation with a smiling face. "Oh dear, it looks like Greg is pretty shy in front of strangers. No worries. We're all like a family to you, so we're not going to hurt you..."

Then, she turned her attention to Nicholas and added, "By the way, Roselle missed Greg so much when she was away, so she specially prepared some presents a week before she returned. Look at the suitcases, three of which are full of presents for Greg, and they are all some toys and tidbits that she prepared for him. My daughter may not be perfect, but she is definitely one thoughtful and tender lady."

Roselle then pretended to be humble when she heard her mother's compliment. "Stop it, Mom..." After that, she bashfully gazed at Nicholas and said, "Please just forget what my mom said, Nicholas. It's just some presents that I prepared, and my mom was surely overreacting about that. Furthermore, I don't know if Greg is going to like them."

Nicholas coldly replied, "Thank you, Miss Gingham."

On the other hand, Gregory pursed his lips unhappily in response. Despite his young age, he could still tell that Roselle wanted to be his father's woman and take over the place of his mother. Thus, he couldn't help but feel disgusted, coldly saying, "Thank you, Miss Gingham. I don't think I need anything at the moment, but I do appreciate your kind intention." Although the boy put his words politely, he didn't seem to be as happy or excited as expected. Instead, he only seized Tessa's finger with his little hand.

In the meantime, Roselle had long noticed Tessa's presence, finding it hard to ignore the fact that Gregory rejected her but was close to Tessa. She then knitted her eyebrows unknowingly and asked, "And who might this be...? It appears that we haven't really met before, have we?"

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Tessa was stunned, but as she was about to answer, Nicholas beat her to it and replied, "She is Greg's violin teacher, Tessa Reinhart."

"Oh, so this is Miss Reinhart!" Roselle greeted her with a smile while still politely showing decency. "Greg has always shied away from strangers, yet he is close to you. Perhaps there is something special about you, Miss Reinhart, and that we should really talk about it."

Upon hearing the lady's words, Tessa paused for a split second, somehow finding it weird even though Roselle struck her as a courteous lady at first. Deep down, it seemed to Tessa that Roselle was acting like she was the Sawyer Family's matriarch, but even so, she didn't dwell too much on it and went on to nod politely.

Soon, Nicholas knitted his eyebrows unhappily and said, "This is not the place to talk. Let's go back."

Roselle smiled and replied with a smile, "Sure, let's head to the hotel."

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Nicholas was about to say something, but Yana was one step ahead. "Of course not! The hotel is nowhere as comfortable as home. Moreover, Stefania and I haven't met each other for a while, and we're going to have so much to talk about, plus you're going to have to drop by and say hi anyway, so how does staying in the hotel seem convenient to you?"

"But... are you sure it won't be troublesome for them?" Roselle appeared a little hesitant.

As the mother and daughter put on a show, Nicholas went on to say, "Well then, let's go back home. We have a lot of empty rooms anyway."

Roselle continued to pretend that she was hesitant for a while and said, "Alright, we'll just do as Nicholas says."

After that, the few of them returned to the car, whereupon Roselle wheeled her luggage to the trunk and was about to put them in it. Meanwhile, Yana, who was also lugging the heavy luggage right behind, saw that and subconsciously shifted her gaze to Tessa.

Feeling unhappy with her presence, Yana tried to boss her around. "Miss Reinhart, would you help us load the luggage, if you don't mind?"

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"S-Sure." Tessa was caught in a trance before she nodded.

Nonetheless, just when Tessa got closer to help, Nicholas frowned and got in her way, staring at Yana with a glacial look. "This is no job for a lady like you. Edward can take care of it."

He then called out to his assistant. "Please load Miss Gingham's bags for her."

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Chapter 24 The Ginghams's Agenda

"Alright, President Sawyer." Edward proceeded to carry out his orders and loaded the luggage onto the trunk of the car by which they came to the airport.

At the same time, Yana's face changed, showing an expression that clearly indicated that she was uncomfortable with what had happened. In the meantime, Roselle's eyes also lit up sinisterly shortly before her gaze turned normal.

Nonetheless, Nicholas acted as if he didn't realize anything and told the mother and daughter to go without him. "Mrs. Gingham and Miss Gingham, I have something to attend to later, so I'll have the butler take you back to the mansion. As for dinner at night, I'll be there."

When the ladies heard his words, they were stunned into a trance, but as Yana was about to express her dissatisfaction, Roselle quickly came to her senses and chuckled. "I'm sorry that you had to come so far just to pick us up despite your busy schedule, Nicholas. If we had known, we would have taken a cab by ourselves."

"No worries." Nicholas gazed at the lady with a glacial look.

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Roselle nodded and smiled gently. "Well, you should probably attend to your business now, Nicholas. I'll take Greg home first and meet his grandmother."

Nicholas didn't reply to Roselle directly but instead looked at Gregory to see what he had to say about that. The boy reacted with a long face, decisively turning Roselle's suggestion down. "I want to be with Miss Pretty Lady. I don't want to go back home with some strangers." As soon as he said that, he made his way to the Maybach that Nicholas had just got on.

While Tessa was left standing without any idea what to do, Gregory poked his head out of the door and called out to her. "Come here, Miss Pretty Lady. Let's go home together!"

Sensing how differently the boy's tone sounded when he spoke with Tessa, Roselle could barely hide the unhappiness written all over her face. As her gaze darkened even more, she continued to smile and maintain her decency, waving her hand while saying, "A-Alright, Nicholas, Mom and I will go first. See you tonight."

"Sure." Nicholas nodded and told his butler to ensure the ladies' safety before the latter agreed with a nod and drove away. "Please take them home safely, Edward."

On the other hand, Roselle finally dropped her pretense and showed a cold expression on her face when she was on her way back to the manor. At the same time, Yana was also angry, evident in her gloomy look.

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Who's that lady? How come she is so close to Greg?! Is she really just a music teacher? Or is she some woman that Nicholas has a fling with?

Despite the problems that were bothering her deep down, Yana didn't dare to speak her mind but shot a gaze at her daughter. When Roselle met her mother's gaze and understood what it meant, she was overwhelmed by her anger, which she was able to suppress shortly after. Then, she raised the corner of her lips and sounded out Edward, who was sitting in the driver's seat. "Edward, Miss Reinhart seems like a nice person. How long has she been here? She seems to be really close to Greg."

Without much hesitation, Edward went on and replied with a smile, "Not very long, actually. She's only been here for a few days, but for some reason, the Little Prince just seems to click perfectly with her. Wherever Miss Reinhart goes, he'll surely want to be along, which is strange because he hardly associates with anyone until he meets her."

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When Roselle heard Edward's reply, her eyes darkened, and a pang of bitter jealousy surged through her.

That lady has only been here not long ago, yet she's gotten so close to Greg already? What the heck is going on?

Although Roselle might have been living her life abroad previously, she had never stopped following everything that happened around Nicholas. Thus, she was aware that Gregory was a shy child who was only comfortable with people with whom he was familiar and hardly socialized with strangers.

Other than that, she also knew that Nicholas hadn't really gotten to know any woman, but after she took a break from following Nicholas, she was stunned by Tessa's sudden appearance.

Then, when she recalled the moment that Nicholas protected Tessa earlier on, her jealousy took over her mind and swamped her with a great sense of danger.

Yana was able to see through her daughter's worry and patted her hand to comfort her, but her eyes were filled with a darkened, sinister energy. After all, the mother and daughter had returned to the country they came from with an agenda to win Nicholas over. In fact, the Gingham Family had been suffering from poor performances in their international businesses, although they might still look successful on the outside.

Therefore, the two ladies were counting on the marriage between Roselle and Nicholas to secure the necessary resources from the Sawyer Group in order to help save the Gingham Group. Because of that, they were determined to get what they wanted and would do anything to get rid of anyone who stood in their way.

Anyone who tries to stop me will be gotten rid of!

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Chapter 25 Tessa's Guest Appearance

In the meantime, the black Maybach was traveling on the road while Tessa was hugging Gregory quietly beside Nicholas. Glaring at his own father with apparent dissatisfaction, the boy murmured, "I don't like that woman. I hate her."

Nicholas raised his eyebrows and met his son's gaze calmly. "That woman is Grandma's guest, like it or not, but you mustn't show your dissatisfaction. Show some manners, at least."

"Hmph! Of course I know that, which was why I greeted her politely!" Gregory thought to himself that he wouldn't have entertained Roselle if she hadn't been his grandmother's guest.

Nicholas smiled and went on to say, "Don't forget that we're going to have dinner with them tonight, so you'd better behave yourself. Do you hear me?"

"Can I choose not to go?" Gregory asked bitterly.

"No!" Nicholas rejected the boy meanly.

Gregory bitterly asked, "Can Miss Pretty Lady come along?"

Tessa heard the boy and replied with a smile, "That's your family dinner, Greg. I'm an outsider or your violin teacher at most, so of course, I can't go." Considering herself as an outsider, she didn't think it was appropriate for her to join the Sawyer Family's dinner.

"If Miss Pretty Lady isn't going, then I'm not going either, Dad. You could dine with them by yourself!" Gregory grunted sourly just when Nicholas knitted his eyebrows helplessly and stared at his son's stubborn look.

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Oh boy, here we go again. Nicholas's face darkened as he was about to lecture Gregory.

Nonetheless, Tessa beat him to it and said, "Greg, how could you throw a tantrum at this moment? You're the Sawyer Family's little master, so you're obligated to receive your guest, but as for me, I really shouldn't be there, considering my position. For that, I need you to stop being mad and behave like a good boy!"

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Gregory remained silent, keeping his head down while refusing to listen to anyone's words.

"Sweetheart..." Tessa couldn't stand to watch Gregory in that sympathetic state, so she pitifully and patiently tried to coax him. "Sweetheart, please be a good boy. It isn't appropriate for me to be around for the occasion, so what do you say that I wait for you at home until you're done?"

While Gregory remained silent, Nicholas felt helpless, knowing that it was his son's trick to make him give in to him. Thus, he rubbed his forehead and said, "Maybe you should join us, Miss Reinhart. We're just having a family dinner after all, plus you're Greg's teacher, and I can introduce you to our family. Nothing wrong with that, right?"

Tessa was surprised to hear that because she was actually reluctant to visit the Sawyer Family due to her fear of how awkwardly it would play out. However, Gregory continued to wrap his arms around her neck like tree roots without showing any signs of letting her go, stubbornly begging her to join them for dinner.

In the end, she gave in to her sympathy in the face of the boy's lovely voice and coy behavior, unwillingly agreeing to join the dinner.

...

Later that night, Nicholas arrived at the Sawyer Residence just on time with Tessa and Gregory around 7.00 PM. The moment they stepped into the house, they were greeted by the sight of Stefania happily chatting with Roselle and Yana. As soon as the old lady saw Gregory, she excitedly approached him and hugged him lovingly, asking, "Oh, my dear handsome boy! Have you missed me?"

"Yes, I have, Grandma." Gregory nodded obediently with a bright smile on his face, lifting Stefania's spirit so much that she couldn't help but gently pinch the child's chubby cheek.

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At the same time, Roselle rose from her seat and greeted Nicholas with a smile. "You're back, Nicholas."

Nicholas nodded indifferently in response while Roselle squinted and gazed at Tessa unhappily. Why is this lady here again?! Despite her frustration, she didn't show it as she smiled faintly at Tessa. "You're here too, Miss Reinhart."

As Tessa nodded, Stefania soon noticed the former's presence but couldn't place her face, although it felt like she had seen her somewhere else at first sight. Trying to jog her memory, she asked, "Who might this be?"