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The Love that Never Really Dies chapter 316 - 320

"Mr. Hayes, someone has reported you for embezzling one billion."

"Embezzlement?"

"Yeah. According to the letter, your ex-wife worked with Andy's company to steal the money. As such, they have reason to believe that you've set this all up to get that money for yourself..." Luke said helplessly as he read the letter.

These idiots... As if Mr. Hayes would even need to go through all that trouble for a mere billion!

Sebastian simply rolled his eyes and chose to ignore the report after hearing that.

To his surprise, a shareholder from the board of directors that was usually on his side came to confront him about the matter later that afternoon.

"Sebastian, is it true what the report said about you? Tell me!"

"What do you think?" Sebastian asked with an emotionless look on his face.

The shareholder frowned. "Of course I know it isn't true, but they're suspecting you of being unable to control your behavior. According to them, they'll have to take further measures if this is truly the case."

I'm unable to control my behavior? What's the meaning of this?

Sebastian narrowed his eyes and placed his pen down as he asked, "What are you trying to say? Are those old fools plotting something behind my back again?"

The shareholder cleared his throat awkwardly before continuing, "You know the rumors about you that were circulating on the internet a while back? Well, the board of directors

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brought that up again recently. From what I've heard, someone has found evidence against you."

Smack!

The loud noise of something hitting the desk broke the deafening silence in his office.

Evidence? What evidence? The one about my mental issue?

Sebastian's eyes went red with rage and looked as vicious as a wild beast's. "All right, then. They can go ahead and present that so-called evidence! I want to see what trick they have up their sleeves!"

"Calm down, Sebastian! This is serious! If the board of directors really does have solid evidence against you, you will be powerless against them!"

The shareholder was quick to advise him when he saw how furious Sebastian was.

Hayes Corporation is a joint-stock company. While the Hayes may be the head of the company at the moment, the board of directors reserves the right to make necessary changes if the head of the company is found guilty of causing losses to the company!

Instead of calming down, the look in Sebastian's simply grew colder when he heard that.

"Then they'd better act fast and catch me before I go berserk and kill them all!"

The shareholder stared speechlessly at Sebastian for what seemed like forever.

The man was indeed crazy to a very terrifying extent, and that was a fact that everyone in the Hayes family knew very well, especially Roderick who watched him grow up.

As such, he freaked out when he saw Matteo pour the kale soup he made into a tiny bottle instead of drinking it.

What the hell is this brat trying to do?

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His mind was in a mess as he quickly ran after Matteo. Upon turning a corner, he saw a familiar figure carry Matteo and take the bottle from him.

“Did you get it?”

“Yup! This is what he gave me, Mommy!”

Matteo’s pale face blushed slightly from happiness after successfully collecting the evidence.

Sasha patted him on the head and was going to meet up with Ian in the yard before leaving the house, but Roderick caught her the moment she turned around.

“So, it was you, Sasha! You sure are a bold one, causing trouble in my home like this! Give it to me!” he shouted while kicking her in the stomach.

Sasha was caught completely off guard. Luckily, she managed to push Matteo out of the way before she fell to the floor with a loud thud.

“Mommy! Mommy!” Matteo yelled out in shock upon seeing that.

Roderick then walked over to her and stared her down as he bellowed anxiously, “What are you two doing? Give it back to me!”

Sasha was in so much pain that she could only curl into a ball and clutch her stomach in pain.

“I don’t know what you’re talking about, Uncle Roderick... Why did you kick me?” she muttered through clenched teeth and tried her best to avoid losing consciousness.

Beads of cold sweat trickled down her face, and Matteo cried even louder when he saw that. “Mommy...”

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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.

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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?"

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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. Roche’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. Roche’s right after.”

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

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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.

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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?

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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.

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That f*cking heartless b*stard!

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

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Never did he imagine that the woman he so detested would commit such an earthshattering act.

Uncle Roderick tried to administer poison to my son? But why? So that his incompetent son can take over? The nerve of him. I can't believe he dared to mess with me, Sebastian Hayes. Plotting to get rid of my offspring then spread the word to the board of directors that I'm mentally ill, just so his own son can lawfully inherit Hayes Corporation.

Sebastian suddenly recalled what the shareholder had said to him that afternoon.

Creak! Out of the blue, the crisp sound of cracked bones came from the hand that was holding onto the lab report.

Oh God!

The horrifying scene left Sasha bereft of speech.

"You'd better stay at home and don't go anywhere!"

The incensed Sebastian ordered her to stay put before he swiftly changed and left the house.

Sasha stared blankly ahead, dumbfounded.

It took a long time for that murderous aura to dissipate before she snapped out of it. Her legs almost gave way as she leaned against the door and let out the breath of air she was unconsciously holding in.

She was well aware of what the man had left to do.

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It was exactly what she had hoped for.

Nonetheless, she still could not help but feel unsettled and wished she had gone along with him.

Sasha returned to her room, but she was unable to regain her composure. She took out the remains of the sweets and soaked them in a mug to take a better look at them.

Roxanne had already analyzed the toxicity of these sweets.

However, she had yet to determine its antidote. If the situation persisted, her son would have to suffer for an indefinite period of time.

Hence, she decided to take matters into her own hands.

“Ms. Wand, you haven’t had your dinner. It’s already so late, so you should come down for dinner.”

“Alright, Wendy.”

Sasha was deeply engrossed in her experiment and gave the housemaid an offhanded reply.

Wendy could only sigh and left the room quietly.

When Sebastian returned reeking of blood, the entire villa was pitch dark save for that room on the second level.

She’s still awake?

In long strides, Sebastian entered the villa.

Just as he was about to head upstairs, he lowered his head to look at his hands. In the end, he decided to wash up in the bathroom on the ground level before going upstairs.

Even though spring had just begun, the weather was still chilly. A thin layer of mist could be seen forming whenever someone exhaled.

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It's rather cold tonight. Why hasn't she slept?

Sebastian arrived at the room where a warm, orange light was spilling out from the crack of the door.

He raised his hand and was about to knock when he realized the door was open. From the crevice, he could see Sasha on her knees in the room. There were papers on the floor. What the heck is she doing?

"Sasha?"

"Hm?"

The woman's head shot up and immediately turned towards the door.

He's back?

An elated Sasha instantly got up, totally forgetting about what she was working on. She made a beeline for the door and opened it, saying, "Sebastian, you're back?"

As the man stood at the door watching her run toward him in an animated manner, his breath momentarily stopped.

"Yes, I'm back. What are you doing?"

"I'm trying to find a remedy for Matt... Roxanne has yet to find the cure, so I thought of trying other methods. But... it's been a whole night of experimenting and I'm still nowhere close. The remnants of the dessert are way too microscopic, and I don't have much left to work with..."

Her sentence trailed off as she looked increasingly distressed.

Sebastian silently observed her while she explained herself. Despite constantly reminding himself to lose all hope in her, he could not help but soften at her actions.

"It's fine. He's already fessed up."

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“What? Really? Did he confess to everything? Did he really admit that he attempted to poison our son?”

When she heard his response, she grew agitated and gripped Sebastian’s wrist tightly.

Sebastian shot a quick glance at her hand. The corners of his lips faintly turned upwards as he continued, “Yes, he owned up to everything. I’ve already killed him.”

Such horrid words seemed to roll off his tongue casually.

At that, Sasha’s eyes widened in shock.

Killed? So fast? Oh god.

Dumbfounded, she was rendered completely speechless. In an instant, fear gripped her as she cowered slightly, feeling chills travel down her spine.

Her reaction didn’t go unnoticed by Sebastian. His face instantaneously hardened as he questioned, “Why? Are you unhappy about what I’ve done?”

“Huh?”

The woman regained her senses and rapidly waved her hands. “No, no, that’s not it... I’m just... I... You took his life so quickly... Won’t your father have anything to say about that?”

Sebastian snickered, “I doubt so. He was out to end his grandson’s life. You think my father would have any qualms?”

His response left Sasha at a loss for words.

There was some truth in his words.

Still, Sasha could not help but find the whole situation difficult to accept.

It wasn’t because that heartless monster didn’t deserve to die, but because Sebastian was so indifferent about murder. His impassive face gave her the impression that homicide was nothing out of the ordinary.

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In a split second, two starkly gory scenes she had once seen in her childhood flashed in her mind.

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“Since everything’s settled now, go to bed.”

Sebastian didn’t think anything was abnormal. After the woman had nothing else to add, he casually wished her goodnight before preparing to leave.

Sasha nodded and bent down to pick up the pieces of paper strewn all over the floor. Unfortunately, she accidentally triggered her injury and soon felt a sharp pang in her body. She immediately cried out in pain.

“What’s wrong?”

Sebastian’s head whipped at the sound of her cry.

Her expression drastically changed as she pretended to be fine. “Nothing! I’m just going to put aside these pieces of paper. You go ahead and sleep. You still have work tomorrow.”

She couldn’t let him find out she was injured. Else, given his ill-natured temper, he was sure to reprimand her for being useless.

To her surprise, he didn’t move an inch. He just stood there and narrowed his eyes suspiciously. “You sure you’re fine?”

“Huh?” Sasha arched her brows in confusion.

In a split second, her mind went into a state of hysteria.

Huh? Did I say something wrong? Wait! I’ve been staying here under the guise of being injured. If I say I’m alright now, that’s digging my own grave. Oh, god. Somebody help me.

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Luckily, she was astute enough to react without delay. She quickly changed her stance and replied, "No. No, I'm not doing fine. I haven't... Um... I haven't recovered yet."

"So, you haven't regained your health?"

"Yes! Look. My belly is covered with bruises."

His menacing stare utterly frightened her. She hurriedly lifted her shirt to show him her wound.

Damn it! Is this considered a blessing in disguise? I finally have an injury that's suitable to parade.

Sebastian shifted his ominous gaze to the area she had just exposed to him. At the sight of her large bruise, his eyes filled with a murderous glint, and he emanated an air of viciousness.

He wasn't oblivious to the fact that she had been feigning her illness.

He only answered that way so that it would pressurize her to reveal her injury.

That must be from Roderick. That son of a b*tch.

With a grim look on his face, he reached out and pushed her hand aside.

Sasha was taken aback by his action. "Huh-"

Her doe-like eyes turned watery as she eyed him apprehensively.

"What... What are you doing? I'm being serious. I'm still injured..."

"What about it?"

"Huh?" In a state of frenzy, Sasha found it difficult to keep up with him. All she could do was gape at him with trepidation.

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He coldly swept his gaze over her and bent down. Without any warning, he took her by surprise and scooped her into his arms.

Oh my god!

Sasha's mind immediately turned blank.

Am I dreaming?

Meanwhile, Sebastian's countenance remained composed. With a motionless Sasha in his arms, he made his way to his own room and gently laid her on the bed. Then, he left to grab the first aid kit.

The-The bed...

Sasha's heart started racing.

At the same time, Sebastian strode in with the first aid kit in hand. He took one quick look at the woman, who was still transfixed by what had just happened. "Take off your clothes!" he demanded.

"Huh?" An appalled Sasha looked up to scrutinize the man. "Why do I have to? I'm not going to..."

"If you don't, how am I supposed to apply medication for you? Why don't you get out of my house in this state and find someone else to do it for you?"

His callous tone hinted that there was no room for negotiation.

Tsk. Why is she acting all pure and innocent? It's not like we haven't done anything together before.

Fortunately, his threat proved to be useful. To avoid having to leave, Sasha peeled off her clothes with red-rimmed eyes.

It was at this moment that Sebastian realized she wasn't wearing a bra. All she had on was a small tank top, probably something casual she slipped on after bathing.

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Damn it!

Instantly, he felt the heat rise in his body, particularly his abdomen area. With much effort, he reluctantly tore his eyes away and focused his eyes on her wound instead.

It was an enormous bruise, especially so when contrasted with her fair complexion. One look at it was enough to tell that it was grave.

“Did it not cross your mind that he’d kill you?”

“What?”

His abrupt question prompted her to turn her reddened face around to face him. At that moment, her eyes unexpectedly met his deep-set orbs.

His cavernous eyes were largely inscrutable, but she could clearly detect the rage and agony in them.

Sasha felt her heart skip a beat at that moment.

“I... I didn’t think that far. All I wanted was... To find the cause of Matteo’s illness,” she explained as she averted her gaze. Her nervousness made her heart beat faster by the minute.

Sebastian was stunned by her response for a moment.

If she really were someone who could sacrifice her life for the sake of her children, then why did she tell them she didn’t want them anymore?

His gaze darkened further before he regained his composure. He silently took out a bottle of ointment and rubbed it in his palms before placing them on her pale, tender skin.

“Ouch!”

Sasha immediately yelped.

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The excruciating pain from her wound, coupled with the searing sensation from his warm palms, gave her an odd tingle.

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