

That Can Be Arranged chapter 26

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Chapter 26 Only Tessa

"She is Greg's violin teacher, and her name is Tessa Reinhart," Nicholas answered on Tessa's behalf.

At the same time, Gregory excitedly helped introduce Tessa to his Stefania. "Have you forgotten, Grandma? She was the one who played the violin during my birthday party!"

"Oh, so that was her! Now I remember. She played the violin really well." Stefania took a while before she recalled the last time she saw Tessa.

Meanwhile, Tessa smiled faintly and replied, "Thank you for the compliment, Madam Sawyer, but at the same time, I'm sorry for coming here without informing ahead."

"No, please don't be," Stefania responded with a friendly attitude. "I didn't expect that Greg would agree to let you be his violin teacher. After all the commotion he made on the ferry, it seems that he truly likes you! Come, please take a seat."

Surprised by the pleasant attitude that Nicholas's mother showed, Tessa immediately thanked her and sat down.

Then, Stefania went on to order the butler to prepare some refreshments before she proceeded to ask Tessa more questions. "I didn't get a good chance to know you, Miss Reinhart. May I know which music institute you graduated from?"

"I'm a graduate from Southfield Music School," Tessa replied steadily, presenting herself with decency and politeness.

Upon hearing that, Stefania wasn't unimpressed at all because Southfield Music School was the best music school in their country, although it was still outclassed by some other international colleges.

Therefore, she believed Tessa was no phony at all and had nothing to pick on her. "Oh, you graduated from a prestigious school. No wonder you played the violin so well." Then, she added, "Well, since you're already here, you might as well join us for dinner." Stefania appeared to be satisfied with Tessa.

On the other hand, Roselle, who witnessed the happy conversation between the two ladies, could no longer hold her frustration back as she smiled and seized the right opportunity to say something. "It seems to me that Greg has changed a lot, Mrs. Sawyer. He used to shy away from strangers a lot, but he no longer does that now."

When Stefania heard that, she said, "Not really. Greg still tends to avoid strangers most of the time."

"Really?" Roselle ambiguously shifted her gaze to Tessa, smiling in an unfathomable manner. "But it seems to me that Greg is really close with Miss Reinhart."

At that moment, Tessa felt her heartbeat rising, finally sensing the sarcasm behind Roselle's words. She then turned her attention to Roselle, noticing the unfathomable aura beneath the gentle look on her face.

After that, she knitted her eyebrows and replied, "Well, I guess Greg probably liked it a lot when I played the violin well the last time, which is why he's started to grow so close with me."

When Stefania heard that, she smiled and answered, "That could be possible! Greg has always had it in him since he was little when it comes to music. After all, he picked it up pretty fast when a piano teacher was previously hired to teach."

"Well, Greg is indeed an observant fast learner in music, and that he is an absolute talent." Tessa complimented Gregory, putting a smile on the boy's face. At the same time, Gregory's face blushed adorably right after the lady's praise filled him with happiness.

In the meantime, Yana somehow felt disgusted with Tessa as she continued to listen to their conversation. Thus, she sniggered and suggested something.

"Stefania, I can see that Miss Reinhart will be a good teacher, but if you really want to hone Greg's musical talent, you should probably hire someone from overseas to help him. Don't you think so?"

Nonetheless, Gregory refuted the lady with a long face as soon as he heard what she said. "No! I only want Miss Pretty Lady and no one else to be my teacher!" Then, he freed himself from Stefania's arms and hugged Tessa's lap, emphasizing his point like he was asserting dominance. "I said I only want Miss Pretty Lady!"

While Yana was instantly humiliated by the boy's response and put in an awkward position, Roselle quickly interfered to help her mother by hoaxing Gregory. "Greg, my mom was just kidding, so don't be mad."

However, Gregory ignored her and looked away, turning his attention to Nicholas. "Dad, I don't want any other teacher!"

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Chapter 27 Left in the Cold

Nicholas sat aside indifferently but gazed at Gregory with a pair of tender eyes. He then gently replied, "Alright then, if you don't like it, we'll just stick to Miss Reinhart as your teacher."

While Gregory was delighted upon hearing that, Yana started to hate the child, showing a darkened look on her face.

Damn you, child! How dare you ruin my daughter's plan!

However, Yana's train of thought was soon interrupted by the return of Tobias and Kieran as the two men's tall build came into view after they entered the house. While the father's stern look gave off an intimidating aura that made him look like a powerful old king, Kieran had a pair of attractive eyes and charisma on par with his handsome brother that could take anyone's breath away.

When the maids noticed their arrival, they immediately bowed down and greeted the two men. "Old Master Sawyer, Master Kieran."

Soon, Roselle walked closer to them and courteously looked down. "Mr. Sawyer... Kieran, long time no see."

"You must be Roselle. It's indeed been a while since the last time we met. You've grown up a lot and become so much prettier," Tobias replied with a smile.

Kieran politely greeted Roselle back. "Miss Gingham, Mrs. Gingham." Then, when he shifted his gaze away to the others, he went on to greet his brother. "Nicholas, when did you arrive...?" As soon as he finished his sentence, he noticed Tessa from the corner of his eyes and paused in a trance. "Tessa? What brings you here?"

"Um..." Tessa felt a little awkward but decided to explain why she was there one more time before she greeted the father and son.

While Tobias had nothing much to say, Kieran looked at his brother confusedly and leaned closer to him. "What're you doing, Nicholas? Why are you still keeping her by your side? Isn't this lady your..."

Nicholas gazed at his younger brother and interrupted him with a deep voice. "I can't confirm her identity at the moment, which is why I have kept her by my side until I can get to the bottom of the matter. If she turns out to be the lady I was looking for, I'll make sure she disappears forever!"

In that instant, Kieran didn't dare to say a single word more because he knew what his older brother was capable of.

Nicholas has always been a man of his word and will not hesitate to do what he means to. So, if Tessa is really the lady who abandoned Greg back then, she will likely be as good as dead.

Meanwhile, Roselle had always thought highly of her own status as she was used to being the center of attention wherever she went, yet she was neglected and left in the cold, again and again, this time on her return. Thus, she quickly found herself at the end of the rope, barely able to hide her darkened eyes.

Soon, the butler came over to inform. "Sir, Madam, the dinner is ready, and you may help yourself anytime now."

Thus, Stefania immediately summoned everyone to the dining area. When they all surrounded the table to grab a seat, Roselle wanted to sit beside Nicholas, but before she could do so, Gregory beat her to it and sat there. Therefore, she was forced to step aside and take the seat next to the boy, only to be stunned by his reaction.

"Sit here, Miss Pretty Lady!" Gregory patted the seat and called out to Tessa.

Roselle's face stiffened as she made her way to the other seat next to Nicholas on the other side, but once again, she was one step behind Kieran, who apologized to her. "I'm sorry, Miss Gingham. I'd like to have a word with my brother. Please sit there, would you?"

In the face of several thwarted attempts to sit beside Nicholas, Roselle was overwhelmed by the anger that was written all over her face. Nonetheless, she forced herself to stay calm in front of everyone else in order to maintain her decency. Upon suppressing her anger, she returned to her mother and grabbed a seat courteously.

During dinner, Kieran's presence filled the atmosphere with a lot of energy and liveliness, which Yana sentimentally commented about. "Kieran and Nicholas are starting to look like their father, who dominated the commercial world back then. The Sawyer Family is so blessed to have these two sons."

As the compliment put a bright smile on Stefania's face, she couldn't deny that she couldn't be any prouder of her sons, but even so, she decided to react with humility. "Aw, you're flattering me. While Nicholas is reliable and mature, Kieran is a bit of a free spirit who worries and frustrates me because he simply won't want to settle down and get married."

Kieran was displeased with his mother's words. "Come on, Mom. I did carry out my responsibilities, didn't I? But speaking of marriage, I can't force what's not meant to be mine!"

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Chapter 28 Tessa's Innocence

"Hmph! Look at yourself, fool. Who would want to marry you? You're destined to be single forever!" Stefania sniggered with disgust.

Kieran was helpless upon hearing that. "Come on! Do you have any idea how many people are dying to marry me? You can't ditch me like that, Mom. What am I to you? A disposable 'rubber sheath' that you have just used for once and threw away?"

While everyone laughed in amusement after hearing his hilarious reply, Roselle thoughtfully placed some dishes on Nicholas' plate. "Nicholas, I remember this is your favorite dish. Please have more of it."

Although Stefania and Tobias had no comment about Roselle's thoughtful action, Kieran couldn't help but be scared for her. After all, he was aware of his brother's mysophobia as Nicholas had always preferred to enjoy his meals without sharing anyone else's silverware. What is Roselle trying to prove by picking up and placing dishes on Nicholas' plate with her own fork and spoon? Oh dear, is this lady trying to make herself look special?

Soon, Kieran peeked at his older brother and realized that he had his eyes coldly fixed on the food with an unhappy frown. Nonetheless, Nicholas didn't express his dissatisfaction but instead calmly expressed his gratitude. "Thank you."

For the next few moments, Kieran continued to observe his brother and discovered that Nicholas never touched the dish that Roselle had just placed on his plate.

Meanwhile, Roselle also noticed that as her face slightly paled. However, she wasn't about to give up like that, so she turned her attention to Gregory and grabbed a nice juicy shrimp for him. "You need to eat more so that you can grow healthier, Greg."

Nonetheless, as soon as the shrimp fell onto Gregory's plate, he instantly furrowed his eyebrows in disgust.

A few seconds later, Tessa quickly collected the shrimp and took it away from the boy's plate, smiling while saying, "Miss Gingham, Greg is allergic to seafood, so he can't eat this."

"O-Oh, really?" Roselle reacted with a bitter smile. "I'm sorry. I didn't know that..."

"It's okay." Stefania smiled in an unconcerned manner and shifted her gaze to Tessa. "I didn't know that you were even aware of Greg's allergy to seafood. You seem to know Greg well, Miss Reinhart."

"Well, President Sawyer told me about that." Tessa silently lowered her head.

In the meantime, those words sounded like jarring noises that annoyed Roselle when she heard them. Is this lady trying to show off her relationship with Nicholas? Who is she to deserve Nicholas' favor?

In spite of her irritation and frustration, Roselle hid her feelings well, though.

At the same time, Yana, who was also unhappy with Tessa, succumbed to her evil intentions. Then, she ambiguously said in a coy manner, "I understand that you're thoughtful and close with Greg, Miss Reinhart, but if anyone who is unaware of the situation sees this, they might probably think that you know everything about Greg because you had been stalking him."

While Yana's words might have sounded ordinary and innocent, they inevitably portrayed Tessa in a bad light to make her look like she had a hidden agenda by warming up to Gregory.

As Stefania and Tobias furrowed their eyebrows upon hearing Yana's words, Gregory sensibly interfered and explained Tessa's innocence. "I was lost a few days ago until Miss Pretty Lady found me and took me back to Dad. In return, Dad thanked her and treated her to a meal, which was when she found out about my allergy to seafood."

When Stefania and Tobias learned about the truth, they were both relieved to find out that Tessa was not like who they thought she was.

Then, she courteously looked at Tessa and said, "Speaking of this, that little boy never stops wandering off, but anyway, I guess I owe you my thanks for having taken Greg back to his father."

Tessa smiled in relief. "You're welcome. I was just doing what I should."

While Nicholas silently shot a gaze at his son after witnessing how he defended Tessa, Gregory looked back at his father and raised his eyebrows complacently, as if he was trying to boast his competence in protecting Tessa.

Nicholas smiled in response to his son's behavior whereas Roselle completely lost her appetite since she found it hard to continue enjoying her meal in front of Tessa. This woman is really grinding my gears!

Unable to maintain the smile on her face any longer, she quickly came up with an excuse and walked away. "Excuse me, I need to use the washroom, so please carry on with your meals without me. I'll be right back shortly."

The moment she turned around, her rage and wickedness filled her eyes as it surged through her.

At the same time, Yana saw Roselle's reaction and followed her daughter to the washroom.

"Who is this lady? Where the heck is she from?!" Roselle's face twisted in anger.

Noticing her daughter being grumpy, Yana couldn't help but feel frustrated while trying to comfort Roselle. "She is but a violin teacher, nothing more than a nobody. In fact, I can tell that she is just an ordinary lady whom we can easily get rid of. Just like crushing an ant!"

"I want her gone then! She is such an eyesore to me!" Roselle slammed the basin with a sinister look on her beautiful face.

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Chapter 29 To Read In Between the Lines

"Alright. Alright, just calm down, would you?" Yana tried to pacify her daughter.

Soon, Roselle took a deep breath and was finally able to keep a cool head moments later. Then, her eyes were filled with arrogance and insolence. "Mom, the aim of our return this time is for me to win over Nicholas, so you have to lend me a hand! If we can be the bridge between the Sawyers and the Ginghams, I'm sure our family's status will reach a higher peak than we ever have before! Besides, with regards to Nicholas... I have always loved him deeply, so I'm never going to give up on him!"

Yana patted Roselle's back steadily and reassured her with her promise. "Don't worry, girl. I'll keep what you said in mind! From today onward, all you have to focus on is to win Nicholas' heart because I..." She squinted and grunted coldly, her eyes filled with malice and wickedness before continuing, "I will get rid of everything that stands in your way for you!"

As Roselle eased her mind after hearing Yana's promise, Yana noticed her remaining calm again and reminded her to return. "Alright, girl. We've been away for too long, and it's time for us to return."

Roselle nodded in response, whereupon the mother and daughter made their way back to the dining area and rejoined the others. An hour later, they returned to the living room right after they were done with their dinner.

On the other hand, Tessa was thinking that her opportunity to leave had perhaps arrived as she didn't feel comfortable throughout the dinner at all, finding it hard to fit in among the people in the family.

However, before she could say goodbye, Tobias called out to Nicholas and asked, "Fancy a chess game? You and I haven't played together in a while, so let's do that now."

As Nicholas nodded without any rejection, the rest of them sat on the couch and watched the game, which forced Tessa to follow suit and take her seat.

Meanwhile, Roselle seized the opportunity and asked, "Mr. Sawyer, would you like me to make you some tea? I have brought some overseas premium tea back with me, and they're different from the local ones. So, maybe it's a good chance for you to try them out now."

“Sure, that’s a great idea.” Tobias nodded in agreement.

Roselle’s lips curled upward as she began to make some tea. Witnessing her skilled mastery amidst the preparation, Stefania could tell that Roselle had been practicing it a lot.

Thus, she nodded and complimented, “Roselle is such a tender and thoughtful lady. Whoever marries her will be so blessed and fortunate.”

Roselle bashfully looked down to act coy. “Aw, you must be kidding me, Mrs. Sawyer. I haven’t planned to get married yet.”

“Silly girl, who wouldn’t want to get married? Furthermore, you’re an outstanding beauty and I believe you’re the type of lady that every man dreams of.” Stefania smiled in embarrassment.

Yana, who was listening to the conversation aside, chuckled and responded, “You think too highly of Roselle, Stefania. She can never match Kieran and Nicholas whom every lady dreams of. In fact, we had heard stories about them even when we were living abroad. So, I bet every single lady in Southend must admire them.”

Upon hearing Yana’s words, Stefania couldn’t help but comment in worry, “Well, how is all that admiration going to help if both of them aren’t concerned about their relationship status? Neither one of them seems willing to settle down and start a family.”

“I beg to differ.” Yana smiled and steered the conversation in the direction she wanted it to go. “Kieran and Nicholas are probably still waiting for the right people to show up in their life. Take Nicholas for example. He is a handsome man successful in his career, so if he can marry a capable and thoughtful wife, I believe it’ll surely help him to further his career.”

Despite Yana’s indirect meaning behind her ambiguous words, Stefania quickly caught on to what she was trying to say and immediately sized Roselle up. Well, this lady looks decent, so maybe it’s not such a bad thing either if she can be the Sawyer Family’s daughter-in-law. Furthermore, I can tell that she is deeply in love with Nicholas.

At the thought of that, Stefania nodded with a smile and said, “Well, if the feelings are mutual between the kids, I wouldn’t object!”

She had implicitly phrased her words, but both ladies were able to read between the lines. At the same time, Roselle shifted her gaze to Nicholas, barely hiding her admiration for him. Nonetheless, Nicholas was only seen with a glacial look as he calmly concentrated on his chess game while pretending like he hadn’t heard anything at all.

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Chapter 30 She Will Stay With Me

Kieran stood by the side, feeling appalled. Don't these elders have anything else to talk about besides other people's major life events?

To prevent them from grilling him next, Kieran immediately changed the subject and asked Gregory, "Greg, do you want to go out after dinner? I can take you out for a walk."

Much to his surprise, Gregory pouted and looked at him disdainfully. In a babyish voice, Gregory replied ruthlessly, "I don't want to. I want to accompany Miss Pretty Lady. You, on the other hand, are a single man who should be looking for a girlfriend now."

"Pfft—"

The corner of Tessa's mouth twitched as she resisted a slight smile. Initially, her presence here made her feel like she was sitting on pins and needles as she couldn't make conversation with others. When she heard him saying those words, she couldn't help feeling better.

As for Kieran, he looked hurt. He didn't expect that even Gregory felt disdainful of him and immediately retorted, "Greg, your father is also a singleton. Why don't you speak of him?"

Gregory said seriously, "That's because Daddy already has a baby, but you don't."

The minute Kieran heard that, he felt as if he was hit by a critical attack and suffered lots of damage.

Stefania was also amused by Gregory's behavior, so she hurriedly added with a laugh, "Do you hear that? Even Greg knows this. Why don't you hurry up?"

Of course Kieran didn't want to, so he retorted, "I don't care. I won't get married if my brother doesn't! In any case, if things don't pan out, I'll go for artificial insemination and give you a few babies who will all bear the Sawyer name!"

As soon as she heard this, her expression changed greatly and she stepped forward to land a blow on him. "You little idiot, what nonsense are you talking about? See if you dare to try this! See if I don't break your legs after the fact if you do!"

"Ouch, it hurts! Mom, I was wrong! I was wrong!" he cried in pain; his tears almost flowing.

Then, she released him while scolding, "Good to know that! You little b*stard, see whether you dare to do anything like that or not!"

Rubbing his ears aggrievedly, Kieran couldn't help saying, "Sure enough, I was probably picked up from the garbage dump as a child. My parents don't love me. I'm really heartbroken and think this family is not suitable for me. I'm leaving..."

After speaking, he slipped away and ran off faster than a rabbit. A speechless Stefania sighed as she felt a little helpless.

Seeing this made Roselle smile and she praised, "Kieran is still so spirited."

Amidst the laughter, Tobias and Nicholas had finished a game of chess. Tobias had won by a small margin, but he wasn't happy with it because it was Nicholas who obviously allowed him to emerge as the winner. Feeling unhappy, Tobias ordered, "One more round!"

However, Nicholas didn't care for it. "I have an online meeting later, so I have to go back first. I'll come again next time."

With that, he rose to his feet and was ready to leave. Hearing this, Roselle immediately followed suit and tugged at his jacket. "Nicholas, won't you stay here? It's rare to see you and Greg. I still want to chat more with you. Besides, online meetings can be held at home, right?"

Yana quickly helped Roselle by adding, "Yes, Nicholas, it's not convenient for you to drive at night, so stay here."

A frowning Nicholas subconsciously pushed Roselle's hand away. His tone was calm and firm without any room for discussion as he responded, "No need. Greg only likes his own bed, so he won't like sleeping here. Besides, it's not appropriate for Miss Reinhart to stay here either."

Roselle's heart suddenly constricted when she heard the words and she asked all of a sudden, "Miss Reinhart, will you be going back to your own home tonight?"

At that, Gregory suddenly answered in a loud voice, "No, she will live in Dynasty Gardens to further teach me how to practice the violin. She will stay with me."

When she heard that, Roselle was completely stunned. Her gaze tightened subconsciously as she stared daggers at Tessa. This woman is living in Nicholas' villa?

At the same time, Tessa was also a little confused as she wondered when she had lived in the villa. She wanted to explain, but since Roselle was glaring at her, she chose to remain silent.

Stefania was also extremely surprised when she heard it. Other than the father and son as well as the housekeepers and servants, there was basically no one else staying at Dynasty Gardens on the weekdays because her son simply would not allow it. Yet, this violin teacher is actually staying there?!

Yana was equally startled and she at once questioned, "Is that even appropriate? You guys are unmarried. How can you live together?"