

Can't Win Me Back Chapter 271 - 280

Chapter 271

Alyssa had to wonder if her suitors truly fell for her charm underneath her hideous appearance or if they were too eager to marry the daughter of Winston Taylor. Even she would bar f at her own face. How did they remain calm in front of her?

Power was indeed a great motivator, prompting her suitors to turn a blind eye to her looks.

Thankfully, she had plan B ready.

During her lunch with the first suitor, she suggested showing off her talent by reading his fortune through palmistry.

She informed the man that he had the health of a seventy-year-old despite being only thirty, causing his face to fall as he stormed out of the venue.

During her tea break with the second suitor, she kept staring at the space behind the man until he felt a shiver down his spine.

“Ms. Taylor, what are you staring at?”

“Dylan, there’s a kid standing behind you. He’s looking at you. Are you sure you don’t want him to join us?” Her voice took a creepy turn. He looks ... pretty ... pitiful ...”

Dylan Coppola fled the scene before the end of the date.

It was Felton Cruz’s turn next. Alyssa did not talk to him much during the musical. They were at peace with each other for a while.

After sitting through the musical, she was invited to dinner by Felton. “Ms. Taylor, I had a great time with you. Would you join me for dinner?”

“Sure, I’d love to.” She smiled and grabbed her canvas bag.

Felton hadn’t paid much attention to her

bag at the start. He noticed a line on her canvas bag when he did a double take. It read, “Belbanks Psychiatric Residential Treatment.”

“Felton, what are you doing standing there?” She blinked at him innocently. Ashen-faced, he stumbled backward and stammered, “Uh, I ... I suddenly remember I have something to attend to. Let’s do another day!”

Alyssa and Sean arrived at their final venue of the day. It was a nice and quiet café. The scent of tea leaves wafted in the air and calmed their nerves.

The environment reminded her of Heightsnew Villa. It seemed that the fourth suitor had accidentally found a place to her taste.

Therefore, she decided to go easy on him.

Alyssa had spent a day fooling around with the scions on her blind dates while Sean watched on with fright.

“Ms. Alyssa, you might have forced them into giving up on you, but what if they spread gossip about you later?” Sean looked concerned. “Gossip always spreads like wildfire. I’m worried that it might affect your reputation in Solana City.”

“That’s even better. I would like the men out there to think of me as a mentally ill woman.” She calmly added more freckles to her face with an eyeliner pencil. “That will ruin Winston’s plan to force me into blind dating. He’s too old to fight against me.”

Sean was speechless at her thought process.

“To be honest, Sean, it would be nice to run into a soulmate at this time in my life.

“She put away her makeup and lamented,” That way, I won’t have to rush from a blind date to another.”

Upon hearing that, Sean felt a rush of emotions and looked at her with deep eyes. He shared the same wish, except that his soulmate was her.

“Winston is a sly old fellow. Even if I survived this, he might make another wicked move against me.”

“You’re still Mr. Winston’s favorite. When you were away, he often said that you resembled him the most in terms of personality,”

Sean revealed with a smile.

Alyssa chuckled. “He was taking a jab at me. Couldn’t you tell?”

Sean was entertained by her words. His phone buzzed, and he quickly took a look.

“Ms. Alyssa, the last suitor of the day has arrived.”

“Got it.”

Sean left for an adjacent room to make space for the two.

During the wait, Alyssa rested her cheek on her palm, looking bored. She stared out

of the window and closed her eyes to enjoy the tranquil environment, the scent of the flowers, and the birdsong.

At that moment, she heard the door opening with a creak, followed by steady and heavy footsteps from leather shoes.

When the man was near her, she picked up a crisp and layered scent from him. It was like a night breeze that swayed her heart.

The scent was a mix of violet leaf and soft flowers. It was a rare combination for men.

Alyssa might be allergic to smoke, but she was exceptionally sensitive toward fragrances and spices.

She opened her eyes a little and lay her eyes on his face. Soon, she gaped and stared at him.

“Sorry for making you wait, Ms. Taylor.”

Chapter 272

“Why are you ... here?” Alyssa was caught by surprise. She looked adorable and innocent with the freckles on her face and a head of messy hair.

Jameson Schmidt had a smile in his eyes as he pressed his lips together. “Can’t I be your suitor?”

Her lips formed a taut line as she struggled to answer his question. He resolved the awkwardness with a gentle smile that made his question sound like a harmless joke.

“May I take a seat?” asked Jameson gently and manly.

“Please do,” she replied graciously.

Jameson did not look much different from their first encounter. He looked refined and suave, dressed in a striped emerald couture suit and wearing a pair of gold-rimmed glasses.

“Ms. Taylor, you are rocking a rather adorable and unique style today.” He squinted. “You don’t have to act in front of me, though.”

Just be yourself.”

She coughed in awkwardness. “I don’t recall having you as my date. Why are you here?”

“Because I know that you must have wanted to meet me again. I feel the same too.”

He took off his glasses and smiled.

“What a suggestive remark!” Alyssa thought.

“Well, it’s not a bad idea. I have been curious about you since our last meeting. I do wish to meet you again.” She cast a sharp glance

at him. “Jameson Schmidt.”

His eyes wavered a little, and the hands on his knees trembled out of joy. He whispered, “Lyse, it’s been a while.”

Taken aback, she politely replied, “Yes, it’s been a while.”

They had gotten along well in their childhood, but those memories were from decades ago. Jameson felt like a stranger to Alyssa when they met again.

She vaguely remembered him as a short, skinny boy with good looks and smooth skin when he was younger. Due to his

feminine looks and reserved personality, other kids mocked and ostracized him.

In contrast, Alyssa had been the popular kid in school. She was nicknamed “Big Boss”.

When she saw Jameson bullied, she helped him out right away by beating up three boys who were all taller than her. From then

on, no one dared to bully Jameson because she took him under her wing.

That was all she could recall from her childhood. Little did she know that Jameson, through the ups and downs in his later life,

had never forgotten the ray

of hope she cast into his dark life.

She was not just a first love—the term failed to describe her importance to him.

She was like the sun, igniting the world anew with such brilliance.

“So, you recognized me when I bumped into you drunk at the karaoke that night. Right?”

“Yes.” He smiled.

“Did you save me from danger because you were following me, not because you happened to be there?”

“That’s a yes too.”

“Why?” She frowned. “Why didn’t you tell me who you were when you recognized me?”

“I was waiting.” He took a deep breath and croaked, “I was waiting for you to recall me.”

Ridden with guilt, she felt as though she had disappointed him. “Were you the one who chose this café for the blind date?”

“Yeah. I thought you might like it because it feels like Heights new Villa here.”

There was a spark in his eyes. “Do you still recall?”

We loved playing hide-and-seek in the garden of Heights new Villa. You’d hide in the manna de cave every time.”

Hide-and-seek was their favorite childhood game. He could always guess her location every time he closed his eyes. Still, he always pretended to search high and low for her and deliberately avoided looking in the cave to satisfy her desire to win.

He enjoyed losing, but only to her.

“Wow, you still remember the details.” She scratched her head, feeling sheepish.

Chapter 273

Jameson smiled and sipped his tea with poise and grace, like a noble gentleman from a regency novel. He chatted with Alyssa a bit.

From their conversation, she learned that he had been caring for his mother in Kontina. Due to Alzheimer’s, Lily Schmidt was unable to take care of herself anymore. Despite multiple opportunities to return to Solana City, Jameson chose to stay in Kontina and build his career there.

Alyssa recalled that Jameson came from a rather complicated family. There were four Schmidt siblings in total, with Jameson being the youngest. His two brothers and a sister were the offspring of the first wife, while Jameson was born to the second wife of the Schmidt Family.

She knew little about Lily, who was once a close family friend. She even paid a visit to

the Schmidts' manor, but Lily left no impression on her at all.

"So, why did you come home this year?" asked Alyssa.

"I'm coming back to where I belong. After all, I'm the son of the Schmidt family. I want to take what I am entitled to." He lowered his gaze and toyed with the teacup.

She nodded in understanding. An offspring of a wealthy family who was not in the center of power would be chewed up and spat out. A harmonious family like the Taylors was a rarity.

"We have some time until dinner. What should we do?"

His question caught her off guard. "Huh?"

"I'll bring you to see some roses in the sunset." He leaned toward her with an earnest gaze. "I have a private rose garden that is open to the public for today. Let's enjoy some roses."

Roses? Her eyes sparkled when she thought of her favorite flower. She had a rose garden in the backyard of Heightsnew Villa as well. Mandy and the others took turns caring for the garden when she was not around.

Without thinking, she agreed to it. "Sure! Let's go!"

...

Alyssa took Jameson's Bentley to his private rose garden. It would be an unnecessary fuss to meet each other at the destination, given that they were old family friends.

The Bentley cruised down the street. Sean tailed the car as he gripped the steering wheel tightly.

After seeing Jasper Beckett off, he had to rise to a new challenge—Jameson Schmidt, who appeared more strategic than Jasper.

Last time, Jameson had stalked Alyssa to her neighborhood. Now, he made good use of his connections to swap out Alyssa's original date just to meet with her. He seemed well-prepared and calculative.

Breathing heavily, Sean stared squarely at the back of the Bentley. He would never allow Alyssa to be hurt by another man after

her history with Jasper. He vowed to give his best to protect her. Meanwhile, Jameson and Alyssa were having a good time in the Bentley. She took off her guise and revealed her bare face because she did not bring any makeup. Her long, dark hair was pinned up. She was not overly fussy about her image as the daughter of the Taylor family.

Jameson stole glances at her from the corner of his eye. Like a petal at dawn, she was perfection, carrying herself in a dignified and graceful manner.

Struggling to collect himself, he asked, ”

Did you remember what you called me when we met that night?”

“Hm?” Taken by surprise, she blinked. ”I...don’t.”

“You called me a little bastard.”

He always had a way to render her speechless or embarrass her.

“My dad liked to call me a little bastard when he scolded me. You would poke fun at me by mimicking him sometimes.”

“Uh, kids don’t know better. I apologize for my vulgar behavior in the past.” Her cheeks blushed in shame.

“It’s fine. You can still call me that.” He flashed her a forgiving smile.

“I’d have to be dumb or thick-skinned to do so,” she grumbled in a hushed voice, attempting to wave it away.

She continued, “I’ll go with Jameson. We’re not kids anymore. You are an established businessman now. I need to show you some respect.”

He narrowed his eyes and leaned closer to her. His voice was crystal clear and velvety. ”Whatever makes you happy.”

Chapter 274

If Jameson did not bring Alyssa to his private rose garden, she would have never thought such a place existed to the south of Solana City.

The garden belonged to him, not the Schmidt Group. Hundreds of acres of Damask Rose bloomed on the grounds. The blooming pink roses attracted Alyssa’s attention under the brilliant sunset.

A few couples were strolling and taking photos in the garden. At the same time, some influencers were live-streaming their visits to the rose garden.

The picturesque view provided a respite to Alyssa from her work stress. Jameson and Alyssa, the good-looking pair, became the center of attraction at the rose garden. Anyone would agree that they were a match made in heaven.

Alyssa bent over and gently wrapped her fingers around a stalk of rose, as though she was caressing the face of a lover. Her button nose wiggled as she took in the scent with a mesmerized look.

The look in Jameson's eyes deepened. His lips curled into a smile. "You're just like your name. A lovely, noble flower."

She widened her eyes at his praise before graciously replying, "I know I'm pretty. Still, thanks for the compliment."

"If I call you Lyse, would you call me Jimmy, just like when we were young?" He took a step closer to her, burning in anticipation.

She felt awkward and dodged his gaze. He seemed to feel the same toward her, but she had long put their past behind her. He was just a stranger to her when they reunited years later.

After some thinking, she replied mildly, "I'll do that when we are better acquainted."

"I believe we will, just like how close we were as kids. I'm waiting for you," he remarked firmly, eyes full of eagerness.

2

Feeling weirded out, she changed the topic of conversation with a serious face.

Jameson, what's the annual total output of your rose garden? And what are the costs? Have you signed any agreements with a partner company?"

"Are you discussing a collaboration with me?" He pushed his glasses and chuckled.

"Yes. I have been thinking about it." The moment she stepped foot in the rose garden, all she saw were golden business opportunities.

Upon her return to the KS Group, Alyssa had been aiming for a share of the female consumer market by developing makeup and

skincare products.

However, she did not have time for her business idea as she had to work on expanding KS World's business per Winston's wish.

She was invigorated and inspired by the sight of Jameson's rose garden once more.

"The Damask Rose, also known scientifically as *Rosa Damascena*, symbolizes the iconic legend of Aphrodite and Adonis in

Greek mythology. It is the symbol of love and beauty, the epitome of romance."

Her eyes shimmered excitedly as she rattled off her extensive knowledge of

roses."The Damask rose essential oil is very

valuable. It is effective for physical and spiritual uses. Importing Damask roses is costly, but we rarely come across domestic

plantations that produce the rose.

"As you have the resources, I would like to form a strategic partnership with you.

You will supply the roses, and I will add value to

the end product.

"If you work with me, this rose garden will not only be a scenic spot but a legacy

brand popular among the ladies across the

country. Of course, the profits will be immeasurable as well."

He gazed deeply at her. His handsome features were softened by a smile. Truth be

told, he did not listen to a word about the

business partnership. Many businesses had reached out to him for his rose garden, but he refused to consider any partnerships.

He built a garden of roses with the sole aim of attracting Alyssa, like Gatsby's parties.

She mistook his emotional pause as his hesitation. She coolly added, "I know it

was a sudden suggestion. Since this will be a big

project, you should take your time to think about it. I'm not in a rush."

...

Standing in the sunset by the entrance of

the rose garden, Sean stared at the flowers all around him with mixed feelings.

He knew that the Schmidts and the Taylors were close friends. To Winston Taylor,

Victor Schmidt, Jameson's dad, was his

brother from another mother. Jameson clearly harbored the intention to pursue

Alyssa.

Alyssa had always kept males at arm's length. A good example would be her brutal revenge against Jasper.

To Sean's dismay, she did not seem opposed to a date with Jameson. Not only that, she was willing to extend the date.

This could have stemmed from the fact that Jameson had saved her the other day. Still, Sean was bothered by Alyssa's rare acceptance of Jameson.

Chapter 275

Sean pondered about the possibility of it being something else. He had a flashback of Alyssa's wish to find a soulmate. He felt a squeeze in his heart as he heaved a long sigh.

Right then, he spotted three black luxury cars driving in his direction. His eyes hardened when he saw the number plate of the Maybach leading the entourage.

They were from the Beckett Group. It was Jasper's car!

When the cars came to a stop, Xavier emerged from the front passenger seat and opened the car door at the back for Jasper.

Jasper extended his long legs and stepped out in his spotless handcrafted leather shoes. He sternly buttoned his sleeve as he made his way out.

"Fuck! What bad luck to run into him!" Sean silently cursed when he saw Jasper's handsome face.

A few seconds later, a pale hand appeared from the Maybach. "Jasper, can you give me a hand?"

After some deliberation, Jasper reached out for Liana with a frown. She hurriedly held onto his firm hand, worried that he might change his mind at any time.

A faint smile appeared on her lips. She was secretly elated. Despite Jasper's indifference, she was confident in winning back his affection.

Sean watched on with disgust as the heartless bastard approached the rose garden, hand-in-hand with that Gardner bitch.

He did not even bother to curse at them. It was an unlucky day indeed, he repeatedly told himself.

“Jasper, I tagged along because I wanted to see the flowers. Am I burdensome?” Tears shimmering in Liana’s eyes, like someone had wronged her. However, she kept a tight grip on Jasper’s hand. “Should I ... go home instead? I’m worried I might be a burden ...”

Jasper visited the rose garden for site inspection, not for flower viewing. The site was the largest Damask rose garden in Solana City and in the entire state.

Through this visit, he wanted to inspect the quality of the roses and the soil. For this reason, he invited two botanologists to the site inspection.

If the experts concluded that the roses were up to standard, Jasper would enter a discussion with the owner of the garden to source the ingredients for a new female skincare brand under the Beckett Group. Somehow, Liana got wind of his planned visit and requested to tag along. Considering that Liana was suffering from severe depression and recently attempted to take her life, he had no choice but to agree.

“I’m fine with it.” He said flatly with stony eyes. “The doctor did say that connecting with nature will help your recovery.”

“Jasper, thank you for still caring about me,” she tearily thanked him and rested her head on his shoulder. He frowned as his body was overcome by a strong aversion to her.

“Look, Mr. Beckett! Isn’t that Ms. Taylor’s secretary?” Behind Jasper, Xavier gasped with widened eyes.

Jasper looked up and was shocked. A thrill exploded in his chest. His heart was palpating.

Knowing that Sean never left Alyssa’s side, the sighting meant that she must be in the garden at that moment. Was she there to view the roses as well?

Soon, he clenched his jaw and shook his head. No, that would not explain her competitive nature.

He thought, “She must be here to seize my business opportunity!”

Chapter 276

Sean and Jasper tensed up in confrontation.

“Oh, Mr. Beckett. I wonder if I should call this a pleasant coincidence or bad luck,” Sean was smiling but harsh with his words.

“Is Alyssa Taylor in there?” Jasper questioned with a scowl. Liana’s heart was racing, and she went numb at the mention of Alyssa’s name.

“Why? Can’t she be here?” Sean smirked and retorted, “It’s not like you booked the entire garden to yourself.”

“Tsk, Mr. Beckett did nothing except ask a question! What’s with your attitude?” Xavier chided Sean.

“Really? It’s pretty shameless of you to make that claim. You’re giving me second-hand embarrassment,” Sean mocked him with a frown.

“You _”

“Enough, Xavier,” Jasper stopped Xavier. Then, he questioned flatly, “What’s Alyssa doing here?”

Sean’s cold gaze swept past Liana, who was clinging to Jasper. With an arched brow, he snickered. “She’s here for the same reason as you are!”

Jasper’s frown deepened after learning that. Alyssa had indeed developed an interest in the rose garden. Too bad he would never let her have it!

...

At the same time, Alyssa had ventured deeper into the bushes, holding the hem of her skirt. She looked like a dainty fairy underneath the colors of the sunset.

She squatted in the mud without much fuss and pinched the soil with her hands.

She carefully observed the stems and

petals, even taking photos with her phone and making detailed notes.

The other young ladies at the rose garden were there for the view and the photo-taking. Only Alyssa appeared to be on her treasure hunt.

Contrary to her appearance, Alyssa was far from being a romantic. Instead, she was a stout believer in pragmatism and

capitalism. The only thing on her mind was making money.

An ambitious woman was charming in her way.

Jameson stood with his arms on his back and waited patiently outside the bushes.

He had a dotting smile on his face as he

mumbled, “Lyse, you haven’t changed at all. That’s lovely.”

Right then, he was distracted by a call from Carl. He picked up the call with a steeled expression.”What’s the matter?”

“Mr. Schmidt, Jasper Beckett is here,”

Carl whispered,”The staff from the Beckett Group reached out to me about the partnership, but I did not give them a definitive answer per your orders.

“I never thought they’d act fast and showup with experts for a site inspection. I think they are dead set on the collaboration.”

Jameson stared keenly at Alyssa, who was busy with her tasks in the bushes. He asked in a hushed voice, “Who else is here apart from the Beckett Group personnel?”

“Jasper Beckett’s rumored fiancée is here.They must be really in love if he’s willing to bring her on a business visit.”Carl sounded sarcastic.

Head in the rose shrubs, Alyssa was clueless about the situation.

Jameson lamented secretly, “Lyse, is he the man you loved? You changed your last name and married down just to stay by his side for three years. What a fool you are.”

Anger welled up in his chest. He asked,”Have you made the preparations I asked of you?”

“Yes, Mr. Schmidt!” Carl responded.

“Bring it over. Get someone to lead theBeckett Group guys here.”Jameson nudged his glasses with flashing eyes.

After squatting for a while, Alyssa felt the soreness in her waist. She slowly rose from the bushes, wiping away her sweat with light panting.

Chapter 277

Alyssa had always been like that. She would be completely focused on an object of her interest and fall into a world of her own.

Suddenly, it occurred to her that Jameson was waiting for her. She quickly spun around to find him patiently standing on the side, this time with a straw basket in his hand filled with pink roses that carried an understated beauty.

The breathtaking charm of the flowers reminded her of a quote from Wislawa Szymborska, which said, "Only a rose blooms as a rose, no one else."

"Ms. Taylor," Jameson addressed her while approaching with the flower basket.

"Oh, don't step in here! Be careful not to dirty your clothes!" she hurriedly stopped him when she noticed his sparkly clean outfit.

However, he made his way through the thorny shrubs in an attempt to get to her.

She pursed her lips in embarrassment.

"Ms. Taylor, this is for you." His eyes were as soft as the sunset colors when he handed her the basket.

"Thank you, but I can't accept your gift," she turned him down with a smile.

The basket might be a small gift, but she thought it would be inappropriate to accept roses from him, which appeared more like a symbol of courtship.

Her rejection was expected. He reframed his act with a smile. "A beauty like you is worthy of the roses. More importantly, I wanted to give you a basket of roses for your research because you seemed interested in them.

"The roses come with soil. You can plant them in your garden and keep them blooming year-round with proper care."

Upon hearing that, Alyssa had no reason to turn down his rose basket. After some deliberation, she caved in and took it from him. "Well, thank you, then."

Suddenly, he frowned and bent toward her. She blinked in surprise, holding her breath as his face loomed before her.

"What's wrong? Is there something on my face?"

"Yeah." He nodded in seriousness.

"Where?" She wiped her face in confusion, leaving a soil mark on her cheek like a dirty kitten.

With a doting look, Jameson took out a white handkerchief and wiped away the stains on her cheek and forehead. It took her a while to react to his swift move, and she frantically said, "I'll do it myself." "It's fine. You look clean now." Gazing deep into her eyes, he quickly withdrew his hand. He had a knack for coming to a stop at the exact moment she started feeling uneasy at their intimacy. He was flirting. The idea popped up in her mind, but she shrugged it off very soon. Perhaps Jameson was merely being attentive because of his mild temperament and the fact that she was a childhood friend. They heard a flurry of footsteps in their direction. Alyssa raised her gaze and was instantly stunned. 1 Jasper was standing stiffly a few steps away from her. He was not agitated nor furious, even though something was simmering in his eyes. It felt like the calm before the storm. Apparently, Jasper had observed the interaction between Alyssa and Jameson. He clenched his fists, white-knuckled. He watched helplessly as Alyssa beamed at Jameson and accepted the rose basket. He also witnessed Jameson gently wiping away the dirt on her cheek. The two were close to each other, like a match made in heaven. Jasper felt the muscles in his back stiffening as he gritted his teeth. His mind was buzzing and in pain from the shock. He realized that Alyssa wasn't here to fight for his project. She was here to view the sea of roses with her new lover. Deep down, he'd rather Alyssa show up as a business rival to seize his partnership opportunity and inflict torture on him. He'd willingly give her anything she wanted rather than watch her showering another man with all her affection that was once reserved for him.

Chapter 278

Jasper, looking grim, was experiencing an emotional rollercoaster at the moment. Alyssa did not share the same sentiment. She merely felt unlucky to have run into him.

Bumping into Jasper in the lovely rose garden was akin to stepping on dog shit—a mood killer. She secretly grumbled, thinking

that she might need to start reading her fortune of the day before leaving her house. Liana, clinging tightly to Jasper, was an eyesore to Alyssa.

Jameson leaned closer to Alyssa and chuckled into her ear. "Don't panic. I'm here for you."

Feeling ticklish, she thought, "What's there to panic about? I'll take things as they come."

"Ms. Taylor, what a coincidence!" Liana was no longer the belligerent young lady from before. She asked softly, "Is this gentleman your boyfriend? You make a perfect couple."

Alyssa had a deadpan look in her eyes. She obviously wanted to ignore Liana.

However, Jameson replied, "Thank you for your compliment. Though, I'm not her boyfriend yet."

Alyssa had not caught the meaning behind his words. Jasper tightened his fists, looking frosty.

Jameson was implying that he would become Alyssa's boyfriend one day. Was it an act of provocation or merely a statement of his increasingly intimate relationship with Alyssa?

Liana observed the frown on Jasper's face and sensed the stiff muscles on his arm. She knew that he still had a place in his heart for Alyssa.

Still, she was relieved to learn that Alyssa had a new boyfriend. Between Jasper and Alyssa, one of them had to be the first to let go of their three years of marriage.

Liana was in awe of Alyssa's popularity. She was curious about Jameson and his background, given how handsome and well-mannered he was.

"Mr. Beckett, are you here to enjoy the flowers with your fiancée?" A smile crept onto Jameson's lips. "Better hurry up. The rose garden is closing soon."

"I'm not as romantic as the two of you." Jasper looked into his eyes with rivalry and deliberately ignored Alyssa. "Xavier, call the owner of the rose garden. I need to talk business."

"Sure." Xavier quickly dialed a number. To everyone's surprise, they heard a ringing phone. The sound seemed to be approaching

them.

“That’s weird. Is he nearby?”Xavier scratched his head and scanned his surroundings in confusion. The ringing phone seemed to grow louder.

“Mr. Schmidt.”

Jasper was stunned at the sight of the man walking up to Jameson with a ringing phone.

“Mr. Schmidt, there’s a call for you.”Carlpolitely handed the phone to Jameson while shooting a disdainful glance at Jasper.

Jameson chuckled faintly and swiped his finger across the screen to end the call. At the same time, Xavier watched the call disconnect. He gaped at the scene with the phone in his hand. Similarly, Jasper was in disbelief. His face paled.

“I am the owner of the rose garden you’re looking for. Regretfully, I have a business partner now. You might have to return with empty hands.”Jameson turned to Alyssa.”Ms. Taylor, I accept your partnership proposal.”

Alyssa glanced at Jameson, who was holding out a right hand. He added, “Let’s work well together.”

She casually glanced at Jasper’s crumbling expression and his bloodshot eyes. It was an exhilarating moment to witness Jasper’s defeat. However, she felt as if she was bullying him after winning the battle with little to no effort.

Anyway, she decided to brush off her guilt and celebrate the moment. Dimples appeared on her cheeks as she smilingly shook

Jameson’s hand. “Mr. Schmidt, I look forward to working with you.”

Chapter 279

Jasper’s entourage stared at each other in shock, especially Xavier, who looked like he was struck by lightning.

Noticing Jasper’s grim expression, Liana tried to be thoughtful and quickly comforted him. Jasper, don’t worry. It’s just a rose garden. You can still reach out to the many rose gardens across the country.”

Jasper removed his arm from her grip while she was talking. The impact of his movement caused her to stumble backward in an

embarrassing moment.

“Let’s go, Mr. Schmidt.” Alyssa didn’t bother to take another look at Jasper and Liana. She beamed gently at Jameson instead.

“Sure. I’ve made a reservation at the restaurant. We can leave at any time now.”

Jasper felt suffocated when Alyssa and Jameson exchanged smiles. His brows knitted in anger as he stepped forward to stand in Jameson’s way.

“Mr. Schmidt, let’s talk in private.” Jasper did not falter even after he had lost the deal.

“If this is about the rose garden project, I have nothing more to discuss with you.” Jameson was unwilling to waste more time on Jasper.

“What if this is for something else?” Jasper cast an enigmatic gaze on Alyssa.

...

Jameson brought Jasper to a pavilion in the rose garden. They sat across each other. They might be surrounded by roses, but the air was tense and frigid.

“Please keep it short. I have a date with Ms. Taylor.” Jameson checked his wristwatch impatiently.

“A date? I thought you were talking business with her.” Jasper refused to back down in front of another man when it was about Alyssa. “You might be the only one who saw it as a date. I knew my wife of three years better than you.”

“Is that so?” Jameson shrugged and mocked, “Three years of sham marriage. Why are you confident that you know her better than I do?”

Jasper clenched his fists as his eyes clouded with hostility. “Did you look into me?” Jameson shook his head with a smile. “Everything I do is out of my interest in Lyse. It has nothing to do with you.

“She did not snatch your rose garden partnership from you. In fact, I was waiting for her all along. I won’t give up my rose garden to anyone except for Lyse.

“I know your secretary contacted my men in private. I didn’t have a chance to tell you in person that I have never wanted to work with the Beckett Group.”

Jameson kept dropping Alyssa's nickname to show off their intimate relationship. Jasper drew a breath with fury in his eyes. "Jameson Schmidt, I know a few things about you even if you haven't been back for long. Those who don't know you, like Alyssa, might be deceived by your façade, but I won't. I am aware of the stuff you did in Kontina."

Jameson Schmidt was a notoriously cruel character in Kontina. He was the epitome of wealth and desire to everyone. His romantic and gentlemanly act in front of Alyssa showed how calculative he could be.

Jasper shouldn't have concerned himself with Alyssa's matters after the divorce, but he was enraged and fearful at her growing relationship with Jameson.

The smile froze on Jameson's face. He lazily nudged his glasses but did not refute Jasper's accusation.

"You always have women swarming around you. But you shouldn't toy around with Alyssa. She's not your plaything when you feel like messing around. You'd be foolish to think you'll win her over with a few bouquets of roses." Jasper's good-looking features frosted up.

A few seconds later, Jameson chortled. "That's odd. You seem to care about her and reluctant to let her go. So, why did you divorce her and marry someone else?"

It was a pointed question that shook Jasper at his core. A jolt of electricity coursed through his body.

"I know I am a character. I might be evil, but at least I have true feelings for Lyse and loyal to her. It's better than marrying Lyse and hurting her by longing for another woman like you did.

"Anyone could accuse me of my behavior, just not you." Jameson grew increasingly harsh in his reply. "I don't care if you feel remorseful or not. You are divorced. Whoever she dates and falls in love with is none of your business."

Jameson made his way out of the pavilion but came to a halt. He turned to face Jasper, who was now as stiff as a statue. "I have

been planning this for years. Your three years of marriage is nothing compared to my wait.”

Sitting alone in the pavilion, Jasper paled and trembled when he replayed Jameson’s words.

Chapter 280

As the visitors gradually exited the rose garden, only Alyssa and Liana were left behind in the endless sea of roses.

In the fading light, Alyssa’s bare face looked as luminous as the moon, to the envy of Liana. Putting aside their grudges, Liana had to admit that Alyssa was an extraordinary beauty.

Alyssa’s beauty evoked fear and resentment in Liana. After all, Alyssa had spent three years under the same roof with Jasper, despite their relationship being a sham marriage.

She bit the bullet and went up to Alyssa while flicking her straight hair. She no longer looked like the frail woman when she was around Jasper. She flashed Alyssa a victorious grin.

“You found a new love r pretty fast. Quiteskillful, aren’t you? You should have done

that sooner. No matter how much you bother Jasper, he will not take another look at you.”

Alyssa stared at Liana, as though she was staring at a madwoman.”Why would I want his attention like a peacock?”

Liana choked and silently cursed at Alyssa. She showed her trump card next. “I’ll tell you some good news since we ran into each other. I’m getting engaged with Jasper at my birthday party.”

“Is that so? Congratulations, but I don’t have any gift for you,” Alyssa replied mindlessly.

Liana was enraged at Alyssa’s indifference, which she perceived as an affront.”You can deny it as much as you want, but I’m sure you are secretly pissed off. You can’t do anything about it. I will be Jasper’s spouse, and you will be a joke in Solana City.”

“Hey, Liana Gardner. Every time we meet, you are either screaming about winning over Jasper or showing off your relationship. Is that your life? Do you have nothing to

show except for a divorce e as your boyfriend?” Alyssa sighed in boredom. She lost some brain cells every time she spoke to Liana.

Even so, it was hard not to clap back at an arrogant and ignorant bitch like Liana. “What did you say?” Liana glowered at Alyssa.

“I understand the urge to show off because you’re marrying up, but you should at least talk to the right person. He might be a treasure in your eyes, but he’s just trash to me. It’s all meaningless, don’t you think?”

Trash?

Liana’s face was flushed when she retorted, “This is pure sour grapes! The meaner you are, the more you care about my engagement with Jasper! You call him trash only because you’re upset! Who wouldn’t be if they were abandoned by their lovers after wasting three years of their lives!”

Alyssa’s eyes frosted up. Her dagger-like gaze gave Liana the chills.

“You have to learn when to stop. You shouldn’t cross a line just because I’ve backed down. My kindness is not a green light for running your mouth. This is my last warning—do not take advantage of my courtesy, or you’ll suffer, Ashley.”

The mention of “Ashley” was akin to dropping a bomb on Liana. She was ashen-faced and badly shaken. Feeling the blood rushing through her veins, she held her breath and stumbled backward.

“What’s with that look?” Alyssa grinned when she saw Liana’s pale face. “Wasn’t Ashley your name when you were studying in Mosgravia? I’ve never come across anyone like you who jumps at the mention of their name.”

“I don’t know who is Ashley. This is my first time hearing the name. I don’t know what you’re on about,” Liana fervently denied any association with the name as her breathing became shallow.

Ashley was an easy woman and a gold-digger, the exact opposite of Liana’s prim and proper persona she crafted for Jasper.

Alyssa narrowed her eyes. With a dangerous gleam, she inched closer to Liana with her arms behind her back. She bent over

and flashed a hostile and knowing smile at Liana.