

## Can't Win Me Back Chapter 331 - 340

### Chapter 331

There was a period of relative calm between the Berenike Hotel and KS World Hotel on the surface, but they were secretly competing with each other.

Their potential client, Ada Kingsley, was an international star who was an icon of the entertainment industry.

She loved high-profile, extravagant events, and naturally, she would scoff at any wedding sponsors that were not luxury brands.

It was public knowledge that Ada herself was a seasoned jewelry collector. She had even hosted small-scale private jewelry exhibitions, showcasing pieces worth no less than millions. For her grand wedding, she made a strict request at the two competing hotels-offering her one-of-a-kind jewelry crafted by true masters.

“Ada made it clear that she wanted something one of its kind to match her superstar status,” Xavier reported the request by Ada’s assistant word by word to Jasper and the upper management in the meeting.

He continued, “She also mentioned that she has no limits for the design and designers of the jewelry. She wants Berenike and KS World to come up with solutions. Whoever offers the better sponsor will get her business. And Ada Kingsley keeps her word.”

Jasper listened to the update with a frown as he tapped a pen on the table with a heavy look in his eyes.

The upper management of the hotel was taken aback and huddled together to deliberate on the request.

“She’s asking for the best in everything. Isn’t this an attempt to take advantage of us? We’re not her bottomless vault!”

“A global superstar, she says. She really thinks highly of herself, doesn’t she?”

“And what’s with the open-ended mission? She feels more like a question setter for exams than a superstar.”

Jasper looked up and cast pressure on the others. “This is a meeting room, not an online chatroom. Keep your mouth shut if you don’t have any ideas.”

Everyone fell silent and racked their brains for solutions after their boss was enraged.

The director of design rattled off a list of prominent jewelry designers abroad. She even prepared presentation slides to introduce the background and representative work of each designer in detail.

Jasper listened to it unemotionally and suddenly questioned, “Why isn’t Alexa on your list?”

The mere mention of Alexa sent a collective hush through the room.

“What’s wrong? What’s that look on everyone’s face?” Jasper asked, furrowing his brow, unaware of the reason for the silence.

“Ahem... Mr. Beckett, I regret to tell you that we will never get Alexa to work for us...” the director stammered.

“Why? Is she dead?”

Everyone was speechless at Jasper’s sincere question.

As the president of the Beckett Group, he was good at business negotiations and company management.

However, he had little knowledge about the jewelry and fashion industries.

“No, she’s well and alive. The problem is that Alexa is seen as the legend of the jewelry design industry.

“The designers I showed you all hold Alexa in high esteem. Some even admitted to drawing inspiration

from Alexa’s work when they hit creative roadblocks.

“Alexa is an exceptional icon of the design world. Anyone who gets a hand on her jewelry would consider themselves lucky and cherish it like a family heirloom.

“How could we possibly afford to commission Alexa to create a one-of-a-kind piece for Ada Kingsley?

It’s... an unrealistic dream.”

The director herself was a devoted fan of Alexa, and she felt personally affronted by the notion of having

Alexa designs jewelry for a celebrity like Ada.

“Icon or no icon, Alexa is human, and she has her weakness.” Jasper remained stubborn as he insisted on the best solution. He

announced, “We will select Alexa as the jewelry designer for Ada Kingsley’s wedding.

Everyone immediately wondered what the hell he was thinking. The director began to perspire profusely.” But Mr. Beckett, the

The designers I mentioned are highly accomplished experts.

“They have received international recognition for their work. Their jewelry is definitely presentable ...”

Jasper calmly shook his head. “I didn’t reject your recommendations because they aren’t good. You did a great job, but you’ve underestimated our competition.”

Everyone exchanged glances.

“Our rival this time is KS World Hotel, led by Alyssa Taylor.”

He used to have a headache at the mention of Alyssa’s name, but this time, his eyes were sparkling with admiration and respect.

Jasper continued, “I know her well. She’s a perfectionist, much like myself. She must have learned about Ada Kingsley’s request,

just as we did. Do you believe that, with KS Group’s wealth and her steeliness,

she’d half-ass this?”

## Chapter 332

Jasper’s eyes darkened. “No. She’s bound to give it her all if she takes action, striking out all potential

opponents. That’s why we must win over Alexa before she even starts.”

The staff and directors were still dubious. It didn't seem likely that Alyssa could tackle someone like

Alexa when their company was having trouble already.

"I want a complete dossier on Alexa's personal life before the day is over. Exclude any information

pertaining to Alexa's professional endeavors," Jasper directed.

Just then, the design department head muttered, "Sir, we're able to give you everything under the sun

about Alexa's professional information, but as for her personal info ... there's only one thing available."

"Yes?"

"Alexa is... a woman."

The next day, Alyssa found herself craving her favorite comfort food after returning to her office post-meeting.

"Get me some fried chicken and beer, will you, Sean? I'm hungry," Alyssa requested while playing her video games.

Sean chuckled. "Aren't you worried at all, Ms. Alyssa? I'm as frazzled as your fried chicken due to Ada

Kingsley's request. The Beckett Group has already begun taking action, and shouldn't we do the same?

"You've shut down all the team's plans for the jewelry design, only suggesting this Alexa person to handle

the request. I don't even know who she is. Shouldn't we be working on a proposal to appoint her for this task?"

"We won't be able to appoint her, and neither will the Beckett Group, so there's nothing to worry about,"

Alyssa said leisurely.

"But-"

Just then, a video call request popped up on Alyssa's desktop. Sean was about to leave to give her some privacy when Alyssa

told him, "You can stay. It's just a friend of mine. I trust you."

She clicked “Accept”,

A window appeared on the screen, revealing a blonde-haired, blue-eyed beauty.

“It’s been a while, Sliva.”

“Jasper Beckett from the Beckett Group just called me, requesting for Alexa to participate in their jewelry design project,” Sliva

Nunez said, her tone accented.

“Oh? Did he? How uncharacteristic of him.”

“It doesn’t matter who calls me. I wouldn’t agree to their request either way.”

“What if I sought out Alexa myself? Could you help me, being her personal assistant and all?” Alyssa

grinned.

Sean blinked in disbelief as he realized why Alyssa had been so confident. It turned out that she knew

Alexa’s personal assistant!

But the next second, his breath was taken away by the words that came out of Sliva’s mouth.

The foreign beauty narrowed her eyes and scowled. “Don’t kid around with me, Ms. Alexa. Do you have any idea how long it has been since you answered my calls?”

Sean was taken aback when he heard Sliva refer to Alyssa as “Ms. Alexa”.

Could Alyssa possibly be the internationally renowned cream of the crop in the jewelry design world, Alexa herself?

### Chapter 333

Sean’s jaw dropped in astonishment.

But Alyssa remained calm. She yawned and muttered, “What’s with the name-calling, hm? Look. You scared my secretary.”

“Why did you sever all communication after returning to Solana City, Alexa? Everyone on the team has been praying and hoping for your swift return.” Tears welled up in Silva’s eyes.

“I’m sorry, dear. I won’t be able to return to you guys for a long time. I need to help my family out here.

You’ll have to take charge of the firm in Yorkley in my stead.” Alyssa sighed. She continued, “Don’t worry about the funding, though. My previous designs will fetch prices that can

keep the firm running for the next couple of decades.

“But please tell everyone not to delay their own progress and ambitions for my sake. If it’s their wish to

leave the firm and pursue greater heights, they have my full blessings.

“The same goes for you, Sliva. Don’t wait for me.”

Sliva rubbed her eyes. “I ... I would never leave your team, Alexa.”

“You’ve helped me so much over the years. It’s only right that you take your chance to make it big for

yourself now. You have the right to choose goals that far surpass your current ones,” Alyssa said,

beaming at her friend.

Alyssa added, “I couldn’t have gotten to where I am now without all your help and support.”

Sean was tearing up listening to their conversation.

He realized he had never truly understood Alyssa. He had thought of her as a perfect, well-rounded

woman before, never realizing she was akin to a goddess instead.

“If the Beckett Group contacts me again, I’ll tell them that Alexa has decided to work with KS Group!”

Sliva said.

Alyssa smirked. “No need. We need to give them some hope in order to have them fall gracefully flat on their faces.”

Silva's eyes widened. “I understand.”

“We can’t declare victory before they’ve even made their first wave of attacks,”

Alyssa grinned.

She continued, “I can’t let Jasper lose his chance to put on a good show. Racing to the finish line, only to

They hung up the call. Meanwhile, Sean was still recovering from the shock of what he had just heard. He

nearly bowed down in reverence to Alyssa.

“Hey, wake up.” Alyssa snapped her fingers in front of him, jolting him back to reality. She suddenly asked,

“Do you think I’m being too cruel?”

As she swirled around in her desk chair, Sean replied, “I think fair’s fair. He deserves this for treating you

terribly throughout those three years.”

“I agree.” Alyssa nodded, then closed her eyes. “It wasn’t his lack of love for me that hurt the most, to be

honest. It was the fact that he unabashedly showed off his love for Liana while we were married.”

## Chapter 334

“Every year, I watched him buy plane tickets to Mosgravia to celebrate Liana’s birthdays with her. I’ve never seen someone who hated doing extra work give up their own principles just to make someone happy.

“He even went to Furancia to hire the best artisans for her. Let’s say I could let go of that. But I was his wife. The least he could do was show me some respect,” Alyssa remarked.

All this while, Alyssa’s back was to Sean, making it impossible for him to discern her emotions. She spoke

like a narrator, calmly recounting a story that had happened.

Sean felt upset on her behalf. He knelt down beside Alyssa and said, “Jasper Beckett truly deserves the

worst punishment for hurting you all because of an irredeemable piece of trash!”

Alyssa shook her head, smiling. “I would’ve yelled and screamed all my emotions out to him back then.

But things are different now. I feel a calm I've never felt before, like hearing an unfunny yet amusing joke.

"If Liana is trash, then Jasper is a trash bin. I'm a reasonable woman. I won't let my feelings linger on a useless trash bin.

"But I can't deny watching Jasper run around in circles trying to get Alexa onboard is entertaining. I want to see all his efforts go to waste and crumble into dust.

"You've always been cruel and uncaring, Jasper Beckett. Unfortunately for you, I am too now."

Jasper took a flight to Yoarkley just to meet Alexa in person. On the flight, he suddenly recalled the

necklace he had custom-made for Liana-the Crimson Heart.

He remembered flying to Furancia just to seek out that one designer who had worked for the royals

before.

That was the first time Jasper had begged to get what he wanted. The designer eventually agreed to make the necklace after much hassle.

Yet now, the Crimson Heart was sealed away in its box, a place Jasper would never deign to seek it out again. It had become a symbol of guilt and shame rather than his sincere love.

Jasper gazed unseeingly at the thick clouds outside the plane. Suddenly, Alyssa's loving smile appeared in his mind.

He gently touched the cabin window, as if it were her face, but only coldness met his fingers.

Taking a deep breath, Jasper recalled a conversation from the past.

"Do you have any idea how much Madam adores that necklace? She nearly cried when she heard you were giving it to Ms. Liana!"

"Madam would never toss your gift away, unlike Ms. Liana! She even keeps the ties you don't want to wear anymore just to have a token that reminds her of you!"



Jasper's heart clenched painfully. He never thought the woman he hoped would love him would end up treating his heart like nothing more than a tool.

Only Alyssa had ever shed tears and dreamt of having the love he offered. A bitter smile appeared on Jasper's face as he wondered why Alyssa had stayed with him for those three years, even though he had treated her cruelly. Jasper asked himself, "Why did you do it, Alyssa?"

### Chapter 335

Just then, Xavier came over with a cup of coffee. "Sir, I've contacted Ms. Sliva from Alexa's firm. She's willing to meet up with you to discuss the matter."

"Really?"

"Yes. But she's made it clear that that's all it is. She seemed pretty cold and unwilling to do it, honestly.

Xavier sighed. "I just hope our endeavor doesn't go kaput."

"Don't worry. I'm not giving up until Alexa meets me herself."

They waited in Yorkley for three days before Jasper met with Saliva at a café near Alexa's design firm. He wasn't even invited over to the actual office.

"I'll get straight to the point, Mr. Jasper." Silva's expression was one of pride and mild annoyance. "Thus

far, Alexa has only made jewelry for presidential members, royalty, and those who have contributed exceedingly to societal and human welfare.

"Ada Kingsley may be a celebrity, but she does not fall into any of the above precedent categories."

Xavier scowled, unable to understand what the fuss was all about when it was just jewelry!

Silva added, "I do not mean to sound standoffish. This is merely the truth."

Jasper responded, "I have been actively involved in charitable work and have established charities and

trust funds in my mother's name since I was young.

"I have always enthusiastically supported organizations dedicated to alleviating poverty and orphanages.

I hope Alexa can consider this and not view it as just another celebrity trying to get their way.

"We are prepared to assist Alexa in any way, including financial support. Additionally, we intend to donate

the proceeds from the homecoming party to local charities to help the community."

"Oh? Do you think that's all Alexa cares about? Do you think she's so narrow-minded?" Sliva sneered.

Jasper cleared his throat. "Of course not."

"Countless people have come to us seeking Alexa's help over the years, all in the name of charity. Yet

Most of them were secretly money launderers and crooks. Who knows if I'm sitting across one now?"

Jasper's hand balled into a fist.

Xavier had had enough. "Ms. Sliva, we genuinely mean well. There's no need to insinuate anything unkind whatsoever."

Jasper held out a hand to stop him from speaking further.

"I've always personally reviewed my company's assets and cash flow. This event will be included as well. I can send you all the receipts and listings of related costs for your perusal."

Sliva looked away. "I will let Alexa know of your proposal, Mr. Jasper. But at the end of the day, Alexa will

be the one to decide on whether she will or will not join you. You're not the only one who has come to seek her help."

Sliva turned around and left right away, barely touching her coffee.

Xavier was pissed. "What was that? She was so rude! Are all Yoarkley women this irritating?"

"We need to come up with a plan right away." Jasper unclenched his hands. "My guess is Alexa is treating Alyssa and her team

just as tough as she's treating ours, given our goals are the same. I don't think Alyssa could propose anything better than we can, either."  
"Do you have something in mind, sir?"

"We need to start with Ada's welcoming party first without letting up on Alexa. Keep an eye on Alyssa's progress. If she fidgets so much as in regards to Alexa, let me know straight away!"

### Chapter 336

After returning from Yoarkley, Xavier constantly paid close attention to Alyssa and KS World Hotel's activities.

Unfortunately for Jasper, Alyssa hadn't done a single thing moving forward since that day. She was still busy managing the hotel, not even stepping out of Solana City once. Jasper gazed outside his window, brows wrinkled in thought.

Wasn't Alyssa worried?

Ada's wedding was right around the corner. Or had she secretly given up on hiring Alexa for this project?

The rose garden affair, Sophia's arrest, and the Verdane Valley project being snatched out of his hands

had slowly instilled a sense of apprehension in Jasper toward her.

Jasper couldn't help but curse at himself for fearing Alyssa after their divorce.

Just then, the phone on his desk rang.

"Mr. Jasper, Mr. Landon is here for you."

"Have him come inside."

Landon strode into his office like he owned the place, then lounged on his couch.

"How many times do I have to tell you to not come over here without anything important to tell me? I'm

not as carefree as you are." Jasper didn't even look up at Landon, only quickly flipping through the documents on his table.

“Tsk. You’re not some warlord busy planning your next move. Lighten up a little.  
“Actually, you do resemble those warlords my mom was watching a documentary about recently. They’re

heartless, selfish pricks. You’d fit in.”

“The door is right there if you have nothing better to do.”

“Now that Zoe’s back home, Mom’s inviting you over for dinner.”

“Thanks, but no thanks. I’m busy with Ada’s proposal.”

“How long has it been since you saw your godmother? Did you know she wanted to cook for you first thing after returning home from her overseas treatment? Are you seriously going to reject her?”

Landon scowled. “She even got all the ingredients for that dish you liked. Imagine how disappointed she’d

Jasper pursed his lips. “Alright, fine. I’ll go.”

“There we go!” Landon smacked his leg excitedly.

Jasper recalled how things had transpired at the National Theater-how Zoe had been so touchy-feely that it made Jasper immensely uncomfortable.

They used to hold hands when Zoe was 10. He was only a few years older than her then. Back then, he

saw her as an actual kid sister, especially since she was Landon’s sister.

But things had changed now that they were all adults. While she might still be naive, he couldn’t afford to do as they did before.

“Is Zoe ...”

Just then, a knock on the door interrupted Jasper.

“Come in.”

“Mr. Jasper, I’ve gathered the information you requested about Madam and Jameson Schmidt’s

connections and their families’ relations!” Xavier rushed in, his excitement evident in his voice.

Upon hearing that, Landon blinked incredulously but said nothing.

Jasper, on the other hand, nearly snapped his pen in two.

“Oh, uh ... I see that you’re occupied. Then, I’ll take my leave first,” Xavier said awkwardly, slowly stepping back outside.

“Stay. Come on, I’m no stranger.” Landon grinned, then snagged an orange from the coffee table. He

peeled it with his fingers while eyeing Jasper from the corner of his eye.

Landon continued, “What’s this then? Finally deciding to get her back?”

“Eat your orange and shut up. Don’t ask what you shouldn’t know.”

“Shouldn’t know? I was the one who courted Alyssa from the start, so don’t give me that attitude!” Landon

chewed on an orange slice.

“So what?” Jasper gazed at him curiously. “She married me. Also, she shut you out the door.”

“Hey, don’t go rubbing that in my face now. Anyway, you’ve divorced her!”

Landon had a strong urge to smack Jasper in the face with his orange. “If you were capable of divorcing

herself, why rely on Xavier to do the dirty work?”

## Chapter 337

Landon said, “How long do you think it will take for you to drag this out before those two end up married, or worse-start having babies?”

Jasper’s heart skipped several beats at the thought. Nevertheless, he said coldly,

“Who told you I was

going after her again?

“I need the information because she has taken away yet another project of mine.

This time, she’s working with Jameson

Schmidt. It will negatively impact the company moving forward.”

“Whatever you say, dude.” Landon cackled, then tossed an orange peel at his friend.

Jasper caught it with his hand before crushing it into dry pulp.

Xavier had to resist the urge to laugh with every fiber of his being. “Mr. Jasper, there appears to be no relationship between Madam and Mr. Jameson that is worth losing sleep over. “She had eyes only for you in the past three years, and there’s no evidence of any involvement with the Schmidt family on her end prior to that.” Only then did Jasper’s expression lighten up. Jameson’s affections seemed to be purely one-sided. “But I did find out that Mr. Victor Schmidt was last seen bringing his two sons, Jameson and David, to Bellbanks, most likely to visit Mr. Winston. Given the relations between their families... he... he wouldn’t be discussing a marriage alliance, would he?” Both Landon and Jasper were left stunned at the notion of a marriage alliance. Jameson and Alyssa were childhood friends. Their families had a close friendship and were equally on par in terms of power. On top of that, they were just the right age. Marriage seemed almost inevitable.

Jasper was seized by a dreadful, soul-crushing terror. “Oh, well. Good game, well played. Landon shrugged. “Even if Alyssa refuses to marry him-now that Victor has personally gone to see her father with Jameson in tow, Alyssa might just relent in the end if her father doesn’t let up on her ...” Jasper was left speechless, and his expression was so sour that it looked like he had aged by a decade. “Hey, do you think you’d be invited to their wedding? You were married to the bride, after all.” Anger rose in Jasper’s chest. “No, Alyssa would never acquiesce to her family’s insistence. She would Landon couldn’t help but quip, “So goddamned sour.” “Landon!” “Fuck you, I was talking about the orange!”

Jasper followed Landon to his family home in the evening for dinner. He had known Landon's mother, Penelope Miller since he was a child. Despite their familiarity, he remained courteous and brought several presents for her benefit, from aged wines to gold pendants. Penelope was just as generous and kind to Jasper. She had prepared a feast for dinner, including many of his favorites.

"You're biased, Mom!" Landon huffed. "You didn't even make one favorite of mine. I knew bringing Jasper over those years ago was a bad idea!"

"Unlike Jasper here, you've eaten my cooking for over 20 years. Of course I have to treat him right this

once. You just be quiet and enjoy the meal."

Penelope was quite fond of Jasper, having treated him like a son for years. "Try some of this. I remember you told me you liked it after school one time."

"Thank you, Mrs. Harper," Jasper smiled, thanking his godmother.

"Eat up, Jasper!" Zoe sat beside him and scooped some paella into his plate. "Here, I made this just for you. Try it!"

But before the rice could reach Jasper's plate, Jasper stopped her. "Thank you, but I can help myself."

## Chapter 338

Zoe blushed instantly, feeling awkward.

"She hasn't used those silverware yet, Jasper. Don't worry about saliva." Landon frowned, defending his sister.

"I'm sorry, Jasper. I'll use a clean fork."

Zoe then used a new fork to serve Jasper the seafood paella, but Jasper stopped her once again. "I can help myself."

That made Zoe pout. "We used to be inseparable, Jasper. Have a few years apart really changed our

bond? Remember how we used to share the same ice cream?"

"We were children then. Now, none of us are." Jasper looked away, scooping some stir-fried garlic green beans into his plate before eating them.

Zoe bit her lip and silently ate her helping of paella, expression upset.

Jasper gazed at the spread of food on the table and remembered how Alyssa used to cook these for him, too.

These dishes took a long time to prepare. Alyssa usually spent the entire afternoon in the kitchen making

them until oil and vapor stained her skin. Yet, he never once thanked her for them.

Even as they were cooked masterfully, on par with some of the renowned chefs in the country, Jasper still

never admitted or acted on the urge to have second helpings.

He remembered how Alyssa would gaze at him with hopeful expectation, waiting for words of

encouragement or praise, but more often than not, end up with disappointment and sadness.

For some reason, Jasper's heart always hurt a little when he saw her like that.

But Alyssa would always regain her spirits and beam at him, saying, "That's okay. I'll do better next time!"

With Alyssa's words resonating in his thoughts, Jasper found himself uncertain if there would ever be another opportunity.

The food in his mouth started tasting more like wax than anything.

"Jasper, is it true that your company is competing with KS World Hotel to organize Ada Kingsley's

wedding? I heard it from Betty," Zoe asked curiously.

Zoe continued, "I heard she's coming to Solana City in the next few days. Are you planning to host a



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## Chapter 339

"It's really a fine plan, Mr. Jasper!" Xavier said, then asked timidly, "It's just, with Madam's personality,

there's a risk she just might win over Ada Kingsley. Why don't we ..."

"Get to the point."

“Why don’t we let Madam have this small win instead? It doesn’t determine the final victor anyway. We’ll

be the gentlemen in this scenario and let the lady have it. Plus, you two were married before-”

No!” Jasper said sharply. “If we can’t move Alexa, then we have no choice but to start from Ada Kingsley.

Alyssa must be in the same boat as us if she’s doing the same thing.

“Every whiff of progress is enough to set us back to square one. We cannot let her have this win. We need

Ada to attend our welcoming party no matter the cost!”

Jasper then entered his car while Xavier was left standing there alone. The latter’s face slowly crumbled

into despair.

Jasper pondered how his boss could ever win back Alyssa with the current approach.

Jasper sighed heavily in his seat. He was actually considering Xavier’s suggestion to let Alyssa win this round.

But he had never won anything involving Alyssa ever since their divorce. She seemed to be leagues above

him, shattering his entire plans in seconds, as if by divine intervention.

He realized how different Alyssa was now compared to that gentle, demure woman who used to be his

wife. Her intelligence, beauty, and grace seemed to be setting them apart for good.

That was why Jasper needed to win. It was one of the only ways he knew to reduce the wide gap between

them.

Landon had to leave for ACE for a client meeting later that night, leaving only his mother and sister at

home.

Zoe went to her mother’s room, nuzzling into her mother’s arms before sleep.

Penelope recalled what had transpired during dinner and told her daughter,

“You’ve scared off Jasper with your enthusiasm, Zoe.

It might be best to turn it down a notch.”

Penelope sighed. “You’re not ten anymore, and he’s not just your ‘brother’ to play around with any longer.

“He’s the CEO of his family’s company now, which puts him in a critical position where no mistakes can be made. The way you interacting with him earlier today might not be appropriate. I think it-”

“Mom.” Zoe sat up, meeting her mother’s gaze. “I wasn’t playing around earlier, and I don’t think of him as just a playmate anymore.”

“What do you mean?”

“Why do you think I refused the dream offer from RYO? I’m back in Solana City because I want to marry Jasper and be his wife.”

“What?” Penelope cried, sitting up in shock. “Are you crazy? He’s like a brother to you!”

“Yes, but he’s not my actual brother!” Zoe said excitedly. “I’ve waited so long for him to finally end things with that Gardner chick.

Now that they’re over, I finally get my chance.”

Penelope was concerned for her daughter, who was deep in her merry fantasies.

“What is it, Mom? Don’t you want us to be together?” Zoe asked, shaking her mother’s hand.

“No, no. It’s just that Jasper is a wonderful man, but he’s not a good choice for marriage. Not only was he involved with Liana

Gardner, but I heard from your brother that he was even married once.

“You’re too naive, Zoe. Jasper has a complicated past. I’m so worried you’ll find yourself unhappy and

suffer if you marry him!”

Zoe sneered internally. She considered herself far from naive; in fact, Betty Beckett seemed to be the one

who fit that description better.

If Zoe married into Jasper’s family, she would make sure those women cowered under her. Her mother

truly underestimated her.

“I’m Zoe Harper, Mom. Our family is just as reputable as theirs. Plus, with you and Landon doting on me

so much, they wouldn’t dare to lay a hand on me.”

“But this is a two-way transaction, Zoe. You still need Jasper to want to marry you!”

Zoe grinned. “My winning chances are already higher than most because of you and Landon around. If I can prove to Jasper that I’m no longer the child I used to be and that I’m fit to stand beside him, helping him out, I’m sure he’ll see me for who I am!”

“But-”

“No buts! I’m marrying Jasper and no one else!”

## Chapter 340

Three days later, Ada Kingsley arrived in Solana City with her team of people. Unfortunately, Sean got wind from her manager that they had chosen to attend the Beckett Group’s welcoming party instead of theirs.

When Sean furiously ran to share this news with Alyssa, she was in the midst of playing pool with Cyrus.

“Ms. Alyssa!” Sean cried.

“Shh! I’m about to win.” Alyssa hushed. This one strike would determine how luxurious a dinner she was going to have tonight.

Sean had no choice but to fidget nervously while waiting for Alyssa’s game with her brother to end. He couldn’t interrupt her while she was so focused.

The final two pool balls were knocked into each other and rolled slowly into adjacent pockets.

“Yes!” Alyssa cried excitedly.

Cyrus chuckled, entirely unbothered by the fact he had lost to her. “You’re getting really good at this.”

Alyssa leaned against her cue stick, sticking her tongue out. “You were a good teacher, after all.”

A shoulder strap on her wine-red spaghetti-strap dress had slipped while she was playing earlier. The sight made Sean swallow tensely, eyes flitting to and away from her shoulder.

Cyrus noticed this and instantly approached Alyssa to tug the strap back in place.

“Careful. You have to watch out for outsiders.”

He then shot Sean a dark look, culminating his years and years of experience as a police officer to become one of pure

contempt and warning that was enough to make Sean look away, embarrassed.

“I know, Cyrus. Sean isn’t just anyone. Plus, it’s not like anything was actually revealed. Don’t worry,” Alyssa said.

Cyrus cocked an eyebrow, successfully won over by her honey-sweet tone.

“What is it, Sean?” Alyssa asked, finally turning to Sean. She sipped on a glass of red wine, leaning against the pool table.

“Ms Alyssa, Ada Kingsley is attending the Berenike Hotel’s welcoming party. She has stood us up!”

“Good.” Alyssa swallowed her wine.

“Good? Jasper is about to flip our entire evening upside down. How is that good?” Sean cried.

“Let me guess. The Berenike Hotel will flood the internet with posters and advertisements within the next three days, capitalizing on Ada’s arrival to lure customers and enhance its reputation.

“This move will cement the Berenike Hotel’s position as one of Solana City’s top destinations for international celebrities and high-profile figures,” Alyssa said, swirling her wine.

“That’s why this is a great loss KS World Hotel is suffering from!”

“How boring,” Alyssa murmured. “I, on the other hand, like winning with all the odds against me. Now, that is exciting.”

Sean swallowed nervously, finding her alarmingly attractive as usual.

Cyrus asked, “What devious plan do you have in mind, little sister?”

Alyssa grinned. “Have the chefs start preparing dinner for the party, Sean.”

“Dinner? But our guest of honor isn’t even going to be here. Why waste the time and ingredients?” Sean

was sure they had lost to the Beckett Group by now.

But Alyssa only responded slyly, “It’s not a waste yet. Tonight’s victor remains undecided.”

Xavier was silently waiting outside KS World Hotel in a black Porsche, ready to report any hint of activities on Alyssa's end to Jasper. He nearly fell asleep when Sean finally exited the building, looking upset.

Having suffered a lot lately while serving his boss, Xavier felt quite relieved to see Sean just as mopey as he felt inside. It seemed like they had discovered that Ada wasn't attending their party.

"Yes!" Xavier cheered internally.

A minute or so later, Alyssa came out to the hotel entrance.

But who was that behind her?

Xavier used his binoculars to get a good look. It was another man!

"I know this really good Tenggrian place." Cyrus hooked an arm around his sister's. "Let's go."

"Really? I want fried pig's brains, beetle grubs, and sheep's intestines!" Alyssa smacked her lips.

"Damn, when did your taste get so peculiar?"

"One has to partake in the finer, stranger things in life, after all!"

"Whatever you say. Drink on me!" The siblings got into the car, chattering merrily.

Xavier slowly put down the binoculars, trembling anxiously..

He muttered to himself, "Shit!"

He quickly snapped some pictures and then sent them to Jasper.

"Bad news, Sir! Madam... Madam seems to have a new male companion!"