

Can't Win Me Back Chapter 801 - 850

Chapter 801

If the truth about Betty's birth father was exposed, Sophia knew that she and Betty would be done for.

Sophia was confined to the hospital for three days, during which Betty stayed by her side, battling

boredom. On the third day, the swelling on Sophia's cheek finally subsided. Throughout her stay, Javier

never once visited.

Betty called Javier numerous times during the wait, imploring him to visit Sophia at the hospital.

However, he coldly dismissed her.

Betty thought Sophia might break down in tears due to Javier's cold treatment. After all, every wife would

yearn for the love of her husband. It was only natural to be distraught if a spouse abandoned them in the

hospital.

To Betty's surprise, Sophia appeared relatively calm about Javier's dismissal. Instead of kicking up a fuss,

Sophia went about her life, taking all three meals and recuperating from her injuries. Yet, there seemed to

be more beneath her seemingly normal behavior.

Sophia's calmness bewildered Betty. In her recollection, Sophia couldn't live without Javier. Surprisingly,

Sophia looked tough and heartless during the hospital stay, like she had never loved Javier at all.

"Mom, Dad hasn't visited you at all in three days. Why do you seem so calm?" Betty blurted out curiously.

"Forcing it upon him wouldn't work. Your dad is just like Jasper. The more you pester them, the less you matter to them. Just leave them be, and these wretched bastards will come back to you naturally," Sophia

explained, disgruntled, while grappling with mixed emotions.

She refrained from reaching out to Javier in the past three days out of fear. Despite being healthy enough.

for discharge, she dared not return home. Instead, she prolonged her hospital stay to "recuperate", hiding

away from him.

After facing Alyssa's accusations that night, Sophia sensed that Javier had looked at her differently. She decided to use her hospital stay to devise an explanation to salvage her image in Javier's eyes.

At that moment, the door swung open. They heard Javier saying, "Wait out there. I'll check on Madam."

"Sure, Mr. Javier."

Sophia and Betty were taken aback when they heard his voice. Sophia hurriedly retrieved a cushion foundation from under her pillow and dabbed the foundation on her lips, seeking to make herself look

sickly.

“Y-Yes, Ms. Betty,” the driver stuttered.

“You brat! I should never have wasted my time with you, you useless imbecile!” Sophia roared, having no one else to vent to. She viciously prodded Betty’s forehead, making her sway.

Sophia continued, “Why did you just stand there and watch me get hit? Why didn’t you do anything when that bitch Alyssa pushed your own mother around? You never once said a word throughout!”

“I-I can’t overpower Alyssa. I might’ve made things worse if I tried!” Betty whined, fists clenching tightly. Why aren’t you scolding Lauren? She didn’t once show up when you were victimized, and she still isn’t

here! All she knows is to sleep around! I really don’t understand why Landon likes her so much!”

“Bah! Do you still think you’re comparable to your sister? So what if she didn’t show up? She still bagged

Landon Harper! Being Landon’s mother-in-law greatly boosts my reputation and is far better than

whatever you’ve ever offered me!”

Sophia didn’t hide her disdain for Sophia. 2

She didn’t believe it before, but now she had to admit that Betty, with her bad genetic makeup, really was

a lost cause ever since she was conceived. (2)

Lauren, who was Sophia and Javier's child, was far better than Betty!

Sophia would have groomed Lauren if she'd only known. What a waste of her time and effort!

Sophia was quickly checked into a VIP ward after getting a checkup at the hospital. She lay on the bed,

the pain in her ears keeping her awake. She tossed and turned, rage and fear rising in her chest.

Sophia was worried Alyssa would find out about her relationship with Ronald or that Ronald would reveal it

to Alyssa.

But there was something Sophia was even more terrified of.

She was terrified that Betty,

being Ronald's daughter and not Javier's, would be found out.

Chapter 802

The air in Sophia's room hung heavy with tension.

Sophia was once pampered by Javier. He might even be more attentive to her than to Newton when Newton was sick. When she fell ill, Javier would worry and visit her daily.

Yet, after three days, he hadn't shown up, which was a first.

She leaned weakly against the headboard, her lips trembling. Through her tears, she stared longingly at him.

Sophia started, “Javier, have you been busy? I know it’s hard to get away from the work at Beckett Group. I understand. I’m fine, though. Just a ruptured eardrum and I’ve had surgery-”

Javier interrupted with a low, stern voice, “Sophie, I’m here to ask you something. Was Alyssa telling the truth?”

Sophia was caught off guard, and her eyes wavered.

“Javier, do you still doubt me? But I’m your wife. You know how I treated you over the years. I’ve given you two daughters and risked my life giving birth to Lauren. After all I’ve sacrificed, how could I possibly cheat on you with a murder suspect?”

She wailed, “Javier, don’t you love me anymore? This is what happens when you don’t love a person- you’ll distrust her! Everything she does will look suspicious to you.”

Beneath her rage, unease, and nervousness lurked. Her confrontation masked her inner panic.

“I wasn’t talking about Ronald Branson. I will look into your relationship with him,” muttered Javier emotionlessly. “I was talking about Lyla Nelson. Were you behind the attack against her?”

“No! No! That wasn’t me!” Sophia raised her voice and tried to clarify, “Why would I hurt her? What could I gain from it? There’s no need for me to take that risk.”

Javier stared at her while tightening his grip on his phone, which was warm in his hand.

In the past three days, he had instructed his secretary to investigate the relationship between Sophia and Ronald secretly.

Some of Alyssa's claims were untrue-Sophia didn't secretly date Ronald or give Ronald her necklace as a love token.

However, some claims were partially true. Sophia knew Ronald from their time at TS Network, and they

When Javier entered, he found Sophia leaning weakly against the headboard, staring at Betty through tears. Sophia mumbled, "Betty, I'm thirsty. Can you get some water for me?"

Sophia's ability to produce tears reminded Betty of that bitch Liana Gardner, whose whereabouts were uncertain.

"Dad! You're finally here!" Betty covered her mouth, feigning a look of shock.

Javier fixed his gaze on the feeble Sophia in bed with an inexplicable look. She felt uneasy under his scrutiny.

Javier said, "Betty, taking care of your mom must have been tough for you. I've asked the family maids to take over. Go home and rest."

"Sure. Dad, Mom, I'll leave now," said Betty, who cast a knowing glance at Sophia before leaving the room and closing the door behind her.

"Ms. Betty, I'll send you home," the b*dyguard at the door addressed Betty politely.

She refused, "It's fine. Give me the car keys. I need to go on a drive."

Frustrated, Betty headed to the underground parking to retrieve the car. After three days in the hospital,

the scent of disinfectant clung to her clothes.

Now, she wanted a new outfit for herself. Afterward, she planned to unwind at a luxury spa.

Suddenly, she felt an excruciating pain in her neck when she approached her car. She let out a scream

before losing consciousness.

When she collapsed to the floor, Angelina showed up behind her, looking dazzling yet ruthless. Angelina

ordered, “Take her away.”

“Got it, Ms. Angelina.”

Two men in black emerged and dragged Betty away as if she were a ragdoll.

Chapter 803

Sophia looked shocked. Innocent and naive didn't seem like adjectives to describe her. It almost sounded as if J avier were talking about someone else entirely, perhaps Jasper's mother, Anne Bartley.

His description irked her.

Without missing a beat, Javier pressed on, “You don't appear to be in need of protection. Even without me around, you seem determined to achieve your goals by any means and exact revenge on those you hate.”

A furrow formed on his forehead, and his gaze darkened.

Javier added, “Consider this your final warning. I hope you behave yourself and don’t hurt the innocent. Do not give our family more trouble. If you don’t listen, I will have no choice but to send you abroad, far away from the drama in Solana City.”

Sophia trembled in rage when she heard Javier threatening to send her away.

She barked, “Javier Beckett, what was that? Are you dumping me now? Do you want to turn me into a divorcee, all because of Alyssa Taylor’s baseless claims? Or do you have feelings for Winston Taylor’s woman? Is that why you unleash your anger on me and try to get rid of me so that you’ll get to marry a new woman?” 1

“What on earth are you talking about?” Javier rasped.

He was consumed by rage.

“Oh, I hit the mark, didn’t I? Feeling guilty now?” Sophia straightened, casting a resentful glare at him.” Rumors were circulating on TS Network about you and Lyla when she worked there. People claimed you actively supported her career and wanted to be her sugar daddy!”

Javier’s shoulders tensed as he silently clenched his fists.

Sophia accused, “Lyla Nelson is your dream, and I’m merely a stand-in. Isn’t that right?”

Finally, she had vocalized the thoughts that had long festered within her. It was a cathartic release,

leaving her both refreshed and infuriated.

She added, “Lyla would have been Mrs. Beckett if she hadn’t tarnished her image with drug use. It

wouldn’t have been me!”

“Enough!” Javier snapped, his veins pulsating.

“Hmph. If you loved her and wanted to protect her, you should have stepped in when she embarrassed

because you were a coward.

“You were terrified of damaging your reputation as the head of the Beckett Group. You failed to protect her in the past, so why do it now? Is it to make up for your past failures?”

Thoroughly provoked, Javier growled, “Sophia Kirkman, shut up!”

She snickered in disdain and taunted, “Your son is infatuated with a woman who isn’t his, and his father is no different. It seems both Beckett men are enchanted by the Taylor women.”

Unable to control his anger, Javier slapped her in the face. Sophia felt her eardrum was about to rupture again. Tears rolled down her cheeks as she stared at him hatefully.

Realizing what he had done, he stood there in shock and curled his numb fingers. For the first time in his life, he had physically assaulted a woman. He had been raised to treat women with utmost respect, yet he couldn't restrain himself due to Sophia's audacious behavior. 1

"How could you hit me?" Crying hysterically, she leaped from the bed and ran barefoot toward the balcony, threatening to off herself. "What's the point of living? I should just die right now!"

Wide-eyed, Javier yelled, "Someb*dy, help!"

The secretary and the b*dyguards rushed in from outside and fearfully pinned down Sophia like she was

a suspect.

Sophia cried her lungs out. She looked like a total mess with her tear-stained face.

With a heavy heart, Javier instructed, "Arrange for two maids to take turns looking after Madam. The rest

of you guard her door 24/7. You'll be held accountable if anything happens to her."

Chapter 804

"Yes, Mr. Javier!" his staff replied.

After that, Javier shook his head glumly and left with heavy footsteps without taking another look at Sophia.

Sophia's mouth hung open. Her legs trembled as her b*dy slowly slumped to the floor.

There was no use crying and throwing a tantrum. Now, even when she threatened to take her own life,

Javier was unwilling to stay by her side and pay her any attention.

She wondered if Javier no longer loved her, questioning whether she was merely a replacement for someone else and if he had never truly loved her.

Then, she let out a series of maniacal cackles that scared the wits out of the poor b*dyguard. He

stammered, "M-Madam, are y-you alright?"

"Great. I guess we are on the same page. You've never loved me, and I've never loved you. But Javier, I

i am the winner in the end because I am the one who forced the love of your life to death!"

"Ouch. It hurts like hell..." Betty groaned.

She woke up drowsily and found herself in a humid and filthy environment. When she squinted, she

realized she was in an abandoned garage, where the moldy smell perforated the air. Two rats squeaked

as they ran along the wall.

After the rats ran away, the squeaking didn't cease as though they were mocking her.

“I-Is there someone here? Help! Save me!” Amid her panicked screams, the door creaked open.

After she adjusted to the blinding light, she found a voluptuous figure approaching her. Any man would be

tempted by the S**ual appeal of that mysterious woman.

Betty immediately recognized Angelina. She gasped, “I-It’s you! You’re the woman who follows Landon

around!”

“Good evening, Ms. Betty. You were unconscious for a very long time. It was a long wait for me,” Angelina spoke while she narrowed her eyes. She pulled on her black leather gloves with an amused look.

“Did you abduct me and dump me over here? How dare you do this to Beckett? You’re asking for trouble! Betty seethed, but she was fearful. “What the heck is this place? Let me out, or I’ll make you suffer! Even

Angelina chuckled louder and tilted her head, entertained by Betty’s crazy behavior.

Betty realized that she couldn’t talk sense into Angelina. So, she got up from the ground and dashed toward the door while screaming, “Someb*dy help me! Argh-”

She felt dizzy as a stabbing pain spread across her abdomen. Angelina had kicked her in the stomach. Flung into the air and falling hard onto the ground, Betty groaned loudly from the pain that spread across her b*dy.

Chapter 805

“How dare you hit me? I’m Betty Beckett. You...” Betty curled into a ball from the pain and drenched in sweat. She rolled around like a burrito and moaned, but her voice gradually faded.

She was surprised by Angelina’s strength, which didn’t seem typical for a woman,

Angelina scoffed. “So what? I can hit you as long as you’re not Ms. Lauren.”

She chuckled and stretched her neck. Then, she cast an icy glare at Betty. “Your life, to me, is as

worthless as those rats in the corner.”

Betty was incensed and humiliated upon hearing that. She got up from the floor with gritted teeth and resolved to fight Angelina with every ounce of her energy.

However, before she could even stand, Angelina kicked her again with greater force.

Yelping, Betty splattered on the ground, feeling excruciating pain throughout her b*dy. Tears, snot, and dust.

covered her face, turning her into a mess.

Angelina, devoid of remorse for hitting a woman, was about to deliver a second kick when Landon’s voice

came through the earpiece, “That’s enough, Angie. You’re too hard on her. If you kick her once more, I bet

you’ll cripple her.”

Angelina drew back her leg and replied, “Yes.”

Betty's soul almost departed her b*dy from the pain. She vaguely heard the ruthless Angelina talking to someone through the earpiece. However, she couldn't make out the conversation.

Angelina mused, "Do you plan to leave her alone?"

"You don't have to go hard on her. Just give her a few slaps to teach her a lesson," Landon instructed

nonchalantly.

Simultaneously, in his black Rolls-Royce, Landon watched the warehouse scene unfold on a screen. The pitiful sight of Betty brought him cathartic satisfaction and amusement.

No. That wasn't enough. The thought of what Betty had done to Lauren enraged him. How he wished he

could crush Betty and avenge Lauren for all the past bullying.

Still, he had to show some respect to Betty, as she was a Beckett. Before he got into power at the Harper Group, he wouldn't want to jeopardize his position by creating trouble.

He wasn't worried about any trouble per se. He was only worried about Lauren's safety. He feared that he

At the thought of his promise to wed Lauren and the challenges ahead of them, he felt a burden on his chest. He let out a heavy sigh, and his warm breath tickled Lauren's ear while she slept in his arms.

She moaned softly and opened her eyes drowsily, her gentle and adorable doe eyes meeting his.

"Did I wake you up, hmm?" he wondered aloud.

He stared down at her and brushed his lips against her reddened ears. He loved her so much. Each hug or kiss made him crave more of her.

“Mmm... No. I just happened to wake up,” Lauren muttered.

Though a late bloomer, after experiencing intimacy with Landon, she seemed to have matured from a young girl into a woman, as if her soul and body had awakened.

She heard his deep breathing and felt his kisses traveling southward, with a desire to explore further.

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Chapter 806

Blushing profusely, Betty understood that Landon was aroused, so she sneaked into Landon's arms.

"Stay still. Let me k*ss you a little more," Landon said to her tenderly as he engaged in a tongue k*ss with her, pinching her chin. Dizzy and defenseless, she succumbed to his passionate advance.

Landon was abruptly interrupted by a deafening slap through his earbud as things were about to escalate. Halting, he removed the earbud with a frown.

"L-Landon, is that Betty?" Lauren clung tightly to his waist, staring in disbelief as Angelina slapped Betty

on the other side.

"Yeah. No one is as ugly as that heartless sister of yours," Landon replied, observing Betty's distress from the assault.

Lauren witnessed Angelina holding Betty up from the ground by holding Betty's hair. Then, Angelina started slapping Betty indiscriminately.

A few rounds later, Betty's haughty and pretty face swelled, her nose bleeding, and her eyes struggling to

open.

Angelina, trained in martial arts and serving as Landon's b*dyguard, proved to be ruthless and strong.

"I'm sorry. Please stop! Please stop it!" Betty pleaded for mercy, suffering in pain.

The more she screamed, the more satisfied Landon seemed.

“Why would you hit her?” Lauren exclaimed in shock and tugged at his arm. “Tell Angie to stop!”

“Darling, why would I?” Landon caressed Lauren’s face.

She blushed embarrassedly and pursed her lips upon hearing his nickname for her.

Landon’s eyes gleamed murderously. “I told you I’d protect and hurt those who bullied you. I want them to

suffer. I cannot forgive what Betty has done to you.

“I’ve shown mercy for too long, and it’s time she paid for her actions. This is just the beginning.”

Lauren quivered. Landon treated her gently, but the look in his eyes had changed.

She knew he was only nice to her and ruthless to the others. She might find it hard to understand and

approve of his behavior, but she loved him regardless.

“Darling, just watch the performance without worry,” Landon said, holding her waist. “It’s boring to be at

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Chapter 807

Jim Ford, the old driver who had served Landon for decades, looked shocked by Landon's

transformation. He had lots of admiration for the adorable Lauren, who had saved Landon from the abyss

Ever since the loss of his father, Landon had dwelled in darkness, becoming increasingly cynical and

callous. However, Lauren had managed to breathe life back into him, rekindling his human emotions. Jim

was glad for Landon.

Slowly, Lauren calmed down and sobbed quietly in Landon's arms, painning him.

Sometimes, he forgot the fact that Lauren was autistic because she was always energetic and innocent

He secretly looked for treatments abroad but didn't get anything useful. The experts from abroad merely

recommended therapy and long-term care, a long and grueling process that not many could withstand

However, he had to do it for Lauren. He had chosen to be with her and was determined to spend the rest

of his life with her.

“Thank you, Landon, for not beating up Betty,” she mumbled.

“Why do you want to protect her after what she has done to you? She hurt you, cursed you, and hit you,”

wondered Landon with a frown.

Lauren sniffled and answered, “Because she’s my sister. Mom and Dad love her a lot. They are happy

when they see her. I don’t want Betty to be hurt. That will upset them.”

It was a mind-boggling sentiment. Lauren, to appease her parents, was willing to make peace with her

aggressor.

Choking up, Landon felt the stabbing pain spread across his b*dy. He remarked, “Lauren, you are too kind.

Her kindness moved him. And that same kindness also served as a beacon of light in his dark life. She

was the antithesis of everything in his life, yet he yearned to be with her.

She leaned over and k*ssed him on his Adam's apple when he was lost in thought. He immediately tensed

up as he battled his desire for her. He was utterly aroused.

"Landon, do you want to do it here?" she asked.

Not knowing how to describe S**, she vaged it up, which was even more alluring to him.

Quietly and stoically, Jim, the driver, raised the partition between the front and back seats, providing them

"Lauren, you're naughty," Landon said.

Sweat dotted his forehead. He slowly tightened his grip on her supple breasts.

She replied, "No, I'm not. I just wanted to thank you."

Blinking, she pouted. "Forget about it, then. Mhm-"

He sealed her l*ps with a k*ss that quickly escalated. He sucked on her l*ps, rendering her breathless. Their tongues danced with each other.

Landon's fingers ran themselves all across her b*dy, causing her skin to flush.

"You can't take back what you've said, my darling," teased Landon. He loosened his tie and went on top of

her, saying, "Only you can take care of what you started."

Chapter 808

Alyssa enjoyed a hot late-night bath and changed into her pink silk night robe. She tied her long hair with a towel and whistled a tune as she descended the stairs, looking radiant.

Despite all her recent troubles, she knew her luck would turn around soon. Besides, as a Taylor, she knew

she could get anything she wanted, even if it were the nation's presidency.

However, Jasper Beckett remained a headache for her.

The thought of Jasper frustrated her to no end. She thought Jasper had fallen for her. She even gradually

warmed up to him and accepted him, only to be disillusioned.

Men were disappointing and despicable, and Jasper was the worst of them all.

The more she thought about it, the more upset she became. Her lips turned into a scowl.

Sean beamed at her from the living room and said, "Ms. Alyssa, I made some hot soup. Would you like some? It's not going to ruin your diet plan."

Alyssa felt sorry for Sean, who was sweaty from all the cooking. She told him, "Sean, you're my secretary,

not my nanny. You don't have to cook for me. I'll ask Mandy to send me a maid from our Belbanks home

to cook for me. I appreciate your thought, but you've worked hard all day."

"Ms. Alyssa, your dad arranged for me to work for you, including taking care of your daily life. I've been

doing the same thing over the years,” Sean argued, worried that he might not be important to Alyssa

anymore.

She shook her head and said firmly, “I told you before that you should pay more attention to those worthy

of your love, such as Taty.”

He clenched his fist as his heart skipped a beat.

She advised him for the sake of Tatiana’s happiness, “You’re busy working for me in the day. Don’t bother

taking care of every detail of my life. Just be good to Taty. You’ll hurt her if you are distracted.”

“Ms. Alyssa, my feelings for Ms. Tatiana-”

Not in the mood to discuss relationships, she cut him off, “Sean, any news from the hospital?”

All she wanted was to get back at Sophia.

After a pause, Sean pursed his lips and replied, “Our Intel in the hospital reported that Sophia Kirkman and Javier Beckett have gotten into a fight, just as you expected.

“After the fight, Javier did not stay at the hospital and didn’t show up in the last two days either. Congratulations, Ms. Alyssa. You’ve succeeded in coming between them.”

“Once we sow the seeds of doubt, Javier will start suspecting Sophia. Her life with the Beckett family will be hellish from now on,” Alyssa said with a cold smirk.

“Only by ruining their relationship and pressuring Sophia will we see her true colors.”

She wanted to drive Sophia to the brink of sanity, destroying her once and for all.

“By the way, as you requested, I looked into Sophia Kirkman’s daily routine. She would go for a routine touch-up weekly, and she has a close relationship with her plastic surgeon at the private clinic. He’s a rather handsome guy in his early 40s.”

That was interesting.

Intrigued, she crossed her arms and clicked her tongue. “Mm, I got it. But I wonder if a man in his 40s

could satisfy her needs. After all, he’s not as vigorous as a twenty-something.”

Sean flashed her a half smile and quipped, “It must be hard for that poor doctor.”

“One of them is after money, and the other wants S**. It works out for both of them.”

Chapter 809

The doorbell rang at that moment. Sean was puzzled. “Who’s visiting at this hour?”

“Sean, answer the door. She’s my guest,” instructed Alyssa.

Sean remained confused, for Alyssa hadn’t told him about the guest before this. Still, he put his thoughts

aside and opened the door.

A young and good-looking lady in her 20s stood there. She was dressed in athleisure wear and a black

cap.

“You are...” Sean wondered, examining the woman before him.

“I-I am Nina-Nina Carle. I’m a maid at the Beckett family who works for Ms. Lauren,” Nina nervously introduced herself while checking out the surroundings.

Upon learning that she worked for Lauren, Sean immediately pieced the puzzle together.

“Sorry, Nina. I couldn’t pick you up because of some reasons. I had to trouble you to visit me,” Alyssa

greeted Nina and held her hand. Then, she led Nina into the living room.

“It must be cold outside. Your hands are frozen. Didn’t I ask you to hail a cab? Don’t worry about the fees,”

Alyssa said.

“It’s fine. I took the bus and changed to the train. It was pretty convenient,” Nina answered, her cheeks red

from the cold.

She trembled, feeling touched by the care that the ex-Mrs. Beckett had shown her.

Alyssa felt bad for Nina when she recalled the walking distance from the train station to the

neighborhood. She knew that Nina wanted to save some money.

Sean made a cup of hot tea for Nina and gave her a hot pack. Nina sat on the living room couch for a

while before she recovered from the cold.

“Madam-Sorry, it’s Ms. Alyssa. Thank you for taking care of Lauren all this while,” Nina whispered firmly. I witnessed how you treated Ms. Lauren when you were still with the Beckett family. Look, I’m willing to

do anything for Ms. Lauren.”

Alyssa observed Nina’s eyes. They were as clear as Lauren’s. She suddenly felt a heavy burden on her

heart.

She had no idea if she was making the right move, but she needed to place a trustworthy figure by

After looking into the household staff, she finally picked Nina to be the spy.

Sean pressed his lips. He knew that Alyssa wanted Nina to spy on Sophia.

Alyssa explained, “Nina, I want you to gain Sophia’s trust and stay by her side. If possible, I need you to install a bug in her bedroom.”

Alyssa’s eyes darkened, and she went to the point, “I want to track every single detail of her life from now on.”

Nina, stunned, gripped tightly onto the hot pack without a word.

“Nina, I know this is tough for you. After all, Sophia Kirkman is Lauren’s mom and the family’s matriarch.

This mission comes with some risks as well...”

“Sure, I’ll do that.” After a brief pause, Nina slowly looked up with a steely determination and swore, “I will

complete every mission to the best of my ability. I bear witness to what Ms. Lauren went through over the

years. Madam Sophia was only good to Ms. Betty, treating Ms. Lauren like one of the maids. Ms. Lauren

was only treated with respect when Mr. Javier and Mr. Jasper were home.”

Alyssa and Sean teared up when they heard Nina’s remark. Nina continued, “I like Ms. Lauren, but I am

clear-headed. I judge Madam Sophia and Ms. Betty by their actions, not by their relationship with Ms.

Lauren. I won’t allow them to hurt Ms. Lauren just because they are her family.”

Nina’s eyes brimmed with tears. “If it weren’t for Mr. Landon, I didn’t know who else could pull Ms. Lauren

out of that hellhole. Mr. Landon is really nice to her.”

Chapter 810

Alyssa recalled how Landon and Lauren held hands and looked at each other lovingly. She was touched and envious of their love.

Lauren had found her love. Alyssa wondered when it would be her turn.

“Ms. Alyssa, you are nice to Ms. Lauren too. I will help you no matter what it takes,” said Nina.

Alyssa held her hand and replied, “Thank you, Nina, but please look out for your safety. Don’t push yourself. If you run into danger, let me know right away.

“We can abort or give up on our plans-as long as you’re safe. Got it?”

Nina nodded with tears in her eyes. Since Nina hadn’t had anything, Alyssa made her some food and even

served Lyla’s pickles. It was a simple but satisfying meal.

Nina wolfed down the food, clearly famished. Alyssa sat across from her, resting her chin on her palm

and smiling.

Alyssa asked, “Is it delicious?”

“Yes! It’s good!” Nina exclaimed after licking the plate clean and wiping her mouth. “Ms. Alyssa, you’re an

excellent cook. Mr. Jasper is fortunate to have you.”

Sean was left speechless by Nina’s unexpected remark. Alyssa, still smiling, teased, “Too bad he doesn’t

i appreciate it. He won’t get to enjoy it anymore.”

After Betty was badly beaten up by Angelina on Landon’s instructions, she quietly flew to Hestrya to

recuperate and fix her face. She dared not add to Sophia’s troubles, and she kept her injuries a secret

from Javier as well.

Angelina wouldn't have assaulted her without Landon's directives. Betty knew that if she made a fuss out of the issue, she'd only humiliate herself and her family. Not only that, she might suffer from Landon's

retaliation.

She never wanted to experience the agony of sharing a room with rats and merciless beatings.

However, she still wanted to get even, or she'd never get over the humiliation

Post-surgery, with a bandaged head, Betty returned to Solana City. While in the car, she received a call

from Zoe.

Zoe barked into the phone, "Hey, where the F*** were you? I couldn't reach you at all."

Zoe addressed her in an authoritative tone, as usual.

Betty, in pain, pressed against her bandaged face and retorted, "Watch your tone. I'm Betty Beckett, not your maid!*

"Poor you. I haven't gotten even with you when you humiliated me in front of Jasper. You have no right to be mad at me now," jeered Zoe. "Whatever. I'll overlook that. Someone will pick you up tomorrow. Go with me to my engagement dress fitting."

"Engagement? Whose engagement?"

"My engagement to Jasper!"

"What?" Betty gasped, looking stunned. "Jasper can't possibly agree to that unless he's lost his mind."

“He hasn’t agreed yet, but it’s just a matter of time,” Zoe asserted. “Wait and see. He’ll cave in soon, and I’ll be your sister-in-law.”

Chapter 811

Betty couldn’t fathom Zoe’s audacity in proudly announcing her engagement. It seemed like sheer

madness.

As the Beckett Group president, Jasper was so powerful that Javier had no control over him. What could the Harpers do about Jasper?

However, she chose not to confront Zoe directly, choosing instead to observe as Zoe unwittingly made a mockery of herself and turned the Harper family into the laughingstock of Solana City.

“Whatever. I don’t mind as long as you’re happy. I wish you and Jasper a happy marriage,” Betty said to Zoe reluctantly.

“By the way, do you remember Mayor Hodgson’s son? He was interested in you, but you weren’t into him,

so the blind date didn’t work out,” Zoe suddenly changed the topic.

Mayor Hodgson’s son? Betty recalled the guy, Freddy Hodgson. Sophia had brought Betty to meet with

Mayor Hodgson and his wife at a golf course earlier. It was a blind date masked as a meeting, as Sophia

intended to get Betty acquainted with Freddy.

In the end, the mayor and his wife were uninterested in Betty. Not only that, Mrs. Hodgson outrageously

requested to meet with Lauren, which was a slap in Betty's face.

To save her face, Betty lied and boasted to Zoe that she had asked Sophia to turn down the Hodgsons'

marriage proposal because she deserved a better suitor.

"Yes. Why did you bring him up?" Betty said crossly.

"Oh. Nothing. He's pursuing me," Zoe replied and laughed gleefully.

Shocked, Betty snickered. "You're about to be Mrs. Beckett soon. You probably wouldn't even look at a

mayor's son."

"I only have eyes for Jasper, that's for sure. That's why I turned down Freddy's advances. But he said he was very in love with me and willing to do anything for me. And by everything, he meant everything," Zoe

remarked and cackled sinisterly.

"What do you mean? What's your plan?" Betty pressed on as she could sense there was more to Zoe's

words.

"I want him to marry Lauren," Zoe announced.

Betty inhaled sharply upon hearing that. Zoe could be very maniacal at times. How could she demand her

Zoe barked into the phone, "Hey, where the F*** were you? I couldn't reach you at all."

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“He hasn’t agreed yet, but it’s just a matter of time,” Zoe asserted. “Wait and see. He’ll cave in soon, and

I’ll be your sister-in-law.”

Chapter 812

David’s driver perished at the scene, and the badly injured b*dyguard seated in the front passenger seat

battled for his life in the emergency room.

Fortunately, as David was seated in the back, he suffered facial injuries from the glass shards after the

front collision. Despite bleeding from the head, he survived the accident.

However, a comminuted fracture in his legs left him permanently crippled.

Victor enlisted experts from across the country to treat David, but none could successfully rehabilitate

David's legs.

One day, the Schmidts sat in their living room-a heavy feeling hung in the air. Daisy sobbed

uncontrollably, but it was unclear if her grief was genuine.

She wailed, "Why did this happen? David used that road often, and it was a straight road. How did he get

into an accident?"

Everyone was moody. Only Jameson crossed his legs and sipped on his tea, unconcerned. He remarked

nonchalantly, "The frequency of using a road doesn't reduce your chances of getting into an accident.

They are unrelated, Daisy."

Daisy dabbed away her tears with her hanky and shot him a moody glare. She accused, "You seem quite

happy after David's accident. Why? Has your wish finally come true?"

He placed the teacup on the table and adjusted his glasses. "No, I'm not happy. I'm just emotionally

stable, unlike you. David isn't dead, but you cry like you're at his funeral."

“You-” she stammered, enraged by his taunt.

“That’s enough! Can’t you guys ever stop squabbling? You’ve been doing that forever. Daisy, David is suffering. You haven’t thought of a solution. You’re only busy causing trouble. Do you want to see our family in a mess?” David growled and slapped on the arm of his chair.

Daisy quivered at Victor’s rage and stopped crying, only glowering at Jameson. 2

After moments of thinking, Jameson slowly suggested, “Dad, I have a solution. Why don’t we give it a try? We might save David’s legs.”

All eyes were on him. Victor’s eyes brightened with hope. He leaned forward eagerly and urged Jameson, “Tell me now!”

“Lyse has another identity-she’s an excellent surgeon. Before this, she successfully performed a difficult

“You’re Lauren’s sister, after all. So, I’ll need your help to make the marriage work, especially when I’m not in the position to act,” Zoe said with a sly smile.

She added, “My family runs a business empire, and we’re influential. If we were an ordinary family, knowing Landon, he wouldn’t give up on Lauren at all. The only way to crush his hope is to marry off Lauren to another influential family like the Hodgsons.”

What a devious plan!

Betty snapped and sweated after tugging on her facial injury, “I remember how you treated me after I helped you out. You nearly sent me to prison! Why would I help you now?”

Zoe drawled, “I’m your future sister-in-law. It’s important to get on my good side. Besides, you must be upset at Lauren for snatching Landon from you. No one else except for me can take revenge for you.”

Betty was stunned by Zoe’s plan. Tears of anger welled up as she clenched her fists, recalling how badly

Angelina had beaten her up.

She seethed silently, “Landon Harper, I love you deeply, but you treat me like an animal. I can only give

you taste your own medicine by taking away your most precious possession.”

With that in mind, she told Zoe, “Tell me what you plan to do.”

Jasper and Zoe’s scandal plunged the Becketts and the Harpers into turmoil.

The Schmidts also faced their own troubles, with David Schmidt having recently been in a car accident of

his way home from a gathering with friends on a rainy night.

Chapter 813

Jameson halted in his tracks and squinted when he heard the icy voice from behind. Yawning, he turned around and questioned, “Josh, what’s the matter? It’s late, and I’d like to rest.”

“Jimmy, you put on a good show. Isn’t it killing two birds with one stone?” Josh commented as he took a

a few steps closer, examining Jameson with a sharp gaze.

“Huh?” Jameson tilted his head, feigning ignorance.

Cutting to the chase, Josh accused, “You set up David’s car accident, didn’t you?”

Jameson still acted like he was confused. “What?”

Seeing through Jameson’s act, Josh continued, “You sent your men to screw up David’s car, but you didn’t want him dead, just crippled.

“Then, you offered a solution to Dad by introducing Ms. Alyssa to him, which earned you cookie points.

You proved yourself capable of sharing his worries. Bravo, Jimmy! That was some slick move.”

Jameson adjusted his glasses and lifted his chin. He erupted into a series of laughter that echoed in the

corridor, sending goosebumps down Josh’s skin.

“Josh, how did you even become the president of the Schmidt Group? You could have been a great

screenwriter instead of being crushed by Jonah Taylor and Jasper Beckett in business!” Jameson jeered

while laughing until he was out of breath.

Fueled by resentment, Joshhed his jaw and hissed, “Jameson Schmidt!”

“David’s accident has nothing to do with me. If you still insist that I played a role, I can only say that I have

jinxed him,” Jameson offered, then left.

Josh took out his phone and ended the recording with a scheming look.

Back in the bedroom, Jameson took a shower after taking off his suit. Then, he poured himself a glass of

red wine while sitting on the couch.

He felt relaxed, joyful, and refreshed. Sometimes, it felt better to condemn someone to hell on earth than

to take his life.

Carl knocked on the door and entered, locking it behind him. “Mr. Schmidt, did you ask for me?”

“Have you taken care of the aftermath?” Jameson asked, taking a sip of red wine.

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“Yes. The lorry driver has admitted guilt. He won’t say another word.”

“Great. I’ll visit Belbanks with Victor tomorrow to get Ms. Alyssa to treat David.”

“Huh? Why, though? How would Victor know about Ms. Alyssa-”

“I made the suggestion.”

Carl, looking astonished, said, “Why would you save David? What if Ms. Alyssa managed to make him walk again?”

“That’s impossible. She’s a doctor, not God,” Jameson said with a sneer.

He had orchestrated the accident that permanently crushed David’s legs. No one could restore them.

“I made the suggestion to show that I will help David despite the bad blood between us. Victor will remember my help. Even if we fail to treat David’s legs, Victor will still be grateful to me.”

Carl gasped, realizing, “You’re smart!”

“Victor can’t do anything about his favorite son,” Jameson remarked.

Standing before the dark windows, he swirled the red wine with an ominous look in his eyes. “Winston

Taylor will never marry his daughter off to a cripple. I am Victor’s only hope now.”

Chapter 814

Victor, worried about David, called Winston that night to make sure that Winston and Alyssa were at home. The following day, he went to the Taylors’ residence at Belbanks with Jameson.

Upon arrival, he immediately wailed without a care for his image, “Oh, Winston! You have to save our poor David!”

Winston and Mandy welcomed him at the door. Winston secretly chuckled at Victor’s disheveled look. After a lifetime of competition between them, Victor had finally given up.

“What’s wrong, Victor?” Mandy was surprised to see Victor in such distress.

Victor, rushing toward them, accidentally tripped on a rock. He fell to his knees in front of the couple, grimacing from the pain in his hand. Winston and Mandy were left speechless by the unexpected scene.

Suppressing a snicker, Jameson helped Victor up. Then, he asked, “Dad, are you hurt anywhere?”

Victor truly loved David. Without even worrying about his appearance, he grabbed Winston and explained, “Winston, David got into a serious car accident a few days ago!”

Winston and Mandy exclaimed, “What happened?”

Jameson chimed in with a look of pity. “A speeding lorry crashed into David’s car on that rainy night because of the poor visibility. David’s legs were crushed by the lorry, and he suffers from a comminuted fracture. The doctor said both legs might have to be amputated.”

Winston was taken aback. “What? Amputation?”

Eyes gleaming with hope, Victor pleaded, “You watched my kid grow up. You wouldn’t want him to be crippled, right? Jimmy mentioned Lyse is the talented surgeon ‘Dr. White.’ Can we get her to treat David’s

legs?”

Alyssa emerged from the villa at that moment. “Uncle Victor.”

She looked dazzling under the morning light. She seemed to have just woken up, as she looked a bit drowsy. Her hair was wet, and her bare, rosy face looked adorable.

Jameson gazed at her tenderly and swallowed hard. He couldn’t move his eyes away from her. He had fallen for an angel like her at a young age, condemning him to 15 years of longing and loneliness.

‘Oh, Lyse! Help me out! You must save David!’ Victor implored, almost in tears, as he clutched Alyssa’s

hands.

can’t sit back and do nothing, especially since David is your son.”

Though not well-acquainted with David, she felt compelled to help as Victor was Winston's old friend.

Relieved, Victor said, "Thank you, Lyse!"

"Uncle Victor, I have to make it clear that I'm just an ordinary surgeon, not an omnipotent God. I'll need to

check on David's injuries before I can make any promise," Alyssa cautioned.

"Lyse, there's hope for David as long as you are willing to help! Jimmy said you performed a successful

head surgery on Jasper Beckett," Victor said.

Alyssa replied powerlessly, "Yeah. You mean a brain surgery."

"If you can crack open a head, fixing legs is a piece of cake for you!" Victor insisted.

She pressed her lips and met eyes with Jameson. Jameson beamed warmly at her.

She muttered, "Fine. I'll try my best."

Alyssa returned to Solana City with Victor and Jameson in the afternoon. The Schmidts accorded her the

best treatment as she was a VIP guest.

As a doctor, her sole focus was treating David, and she swiftly went to his room.

Chapter 815

David remained in a coma. In reality, he was awake, but the doctor had opted to keep him sedated to

shield him from potential emotional distress.

An hour elapsed, and Alyssa emerged from the room, flanked by the hospital director and two medical

professors. She wore a somber expression.

Victor hurried over and inquired, “Lyse, how’s David?”

The other family members, the secretaries, and the bodyguards surrounded the medical team as well.

Frowning, Alyssa hesitated before delivering the grim news, “Uncle Victor, the situation is not optimistic.

David has a severe fracture that’s challenging to mend. The chances of successful healing are close to

none, and there’s only a 20 percent probability of him ever walking again.”

The Schmidt family seemed devastated by the revelation. If not for Josh and Daisy supporting Victor, he

might have collapsed.

Only Jameson leaned against a corner of the wall out of everyone’s vision and grinned.

“Ms. Alyssa, please save my brother’s legs, even if there’s only a one percent chance!” Josh pleaded with

worry.

“Of course. I will try my best since I am here,” Alyssa promised. A hint of hesitation lingered in her eyes.

Victor sensed that she had some unspoken thoughts and urged, “Lyse, speak your mind!”

She asked with a serious face, “Uncle Victor, are you sure that David’s leg fracture was caused by the

accident?”

The Schmidts were surprised by the question. Only Josh and Jameson looked pensive.

Startled, Victor wondered, “What do you mean?”

Alyssa began, “I treated multiple patients with bone fractures. I can tell the causes and even the specific blunt force that led to the injuries.”

She then paused and lowered her voice, saying, “The fracture appears unnatural, almost deliberate-

perhaps inflicted by an object like a metal rod.”

Jameson’s expression darkened upon hearing that. His face turned white.

Casting a glance at Jameson, Josh speculated, “Ms. Alyssa, are you suggesting someone intentionally

injured him after the accident?”

Everyone gasped at the allegation

“Dad, see I knew something was off about David’s accident,” Daisy asserted indignantly

Victor’s face fell as he struggled to grasp the reality

Alyssa clarified, “I don’t know for sure. I’m just highlighting my suspicions as a surgeon. I will perform a Surgery on David in an hour

“It will be a long surgery, so Uncle Victor, you should go home or book a room at the KS World Hotel nearby, I’ll inform you right away when the surgery’s done.”

Victor refused Alyssa’s thoughtful suggestion and insisted, “I’m not tired at all! I’ll wait here.”

He grew fonder of his future daughter in law and resolved to get her married to his son no matter what it

would take,

The surgery extended longer than expected, running from 1 pm to 9 pm.

Finally, the lights of the operation theater turned off. Alyssa emerged from the room with the help of an assistant. After hours of standing, she was drenched in sweat. Multiple towels were used to wipe away her sweat. Even her legs were shaking.

Fortunately, she was able to sustain the demands as she was young and hardy.

Jameson approached her and gently held her. “Lyse! It must have been tough for you. You’re tired, aren’t

you?”

“I’m fine. The surgery matters the most. Uh-” Alyssa gasped as a fainting spell hit her. Her b*dy trembled, and she struggled to stand.

“Lyse, look out!” Jameson, concerned/she might collapse, held her firmly by the waist.

Chapter 816

The Schmidts exchanged funny looks with each other, suspecting a relationship between Alyssa and Jameson, given their intimate behavior.

However, given Jameson’s standing in the family, he was not an ideal match for Alyssa.

“I’m okay,” Alyssa replied, steadying her breath before struggling to free herself from Jameson’s arms.

She refused to cause any misunderstanding under the many watchful eyes. Jameson awkwardly froze and clutched his fingers stiffly.

Victor rushed to the scene at that moment, followed by his staff. He inquired, “Lyse, how’s the situation?”

She wiped away the sweat on her forehead and sighed helplessly. “Uncle Victor, I tried my best, but I only saved his left leg because his injuries were too severe.”

“W-What about the other leg?”

“It has to be amputated,” she dropped a bomb that nearly caused Victor to faint.

He mustered, “It’s... It’s alright. I know his legs.”

you gave your best. I’m grateful that you managed to save one of

Alyssa revealed in honesty, “By the way, David woke up toward the end of the surgery. He told me that someone had beaten him up and crushed his legs.”

Shocked, Victor demanded, “Who did that to him?”

“You’ll have to ask him about that when he has calmed down.”

Thanks to Alyssa’s exceptional skills, the surgery successfully concluded. News of her leg surgery spread through the hospital like a miracle story.

After David was transferred to the VIP patient room, his family entered the room to keep him company. Only Jameson stayed with Alyssa by the bench.

He handed Alyssa a cup of hot coffee. “Lyse, you must be thirsty. Have a drink.”

“Thanks,” she mumbled and received the coffee.

She looked at him sideways with an unreadable look in her eye.

Jameson added with sincerity, “I should be the one to thank you for saving one of David’s legs. He might

be crippled and need prosthetics, but it’s still better than being wheelchair-bound.”

His heart leaped into his throat. “What?”

She refrained from interrogating him. She slowly rose from the bench and announced, “I’m hungry. I’ll go get some food.”

Worried about her, Jameson rose from the bench and said, “I’ll go with you.”

Suddenly, Alyssa pressed against her forehead. She felt dizzy, nauseous, and frail. Due to a lack of food intake, her blood sugar was dangerously low, causing her to suffer from fainting spells.

Thankfully, Jameson quickly held her, saving her from a fall. “Lyse...”

A familiar voice echoed in the hallway. “Alice?”

She opened her eyes and turned slowly, only to be taken aback by what she saw.

Not far away, Jasper, looking stoic, wheeled Newton over to her. Newton looked astonished to see her at

the hospital.

Chapter 817

The air in the spacious corridor hung heavy.

Jasper was stung by the sight of Alyssa leaning weakly in Jameson's arms. Tears welled up in his eyes.

Jasper thought that Alyssa's relationship with Jameson developed speedily during his absence. Feeling bitter, he stared at his feet and tightened his grip on Newton's wheelchair handle.

Jameson did not flinch at Newton and Jasper's presence. He addressed Alyssa with affection and

concern, "Lyse, you've just completed a difficult surgery. You're exhausted and need rest. I'll send you

home."

Alyssa, however, brushed aside his concern and approached Newton with a worried expression. Kneeling,

she gently held Newton's wrinkled hand. "Grandpa, why are you at the hospital? Do you feel unwell?"

Jasper pursed his lips after he was ignored by Alyssa. She seemed only to have eyes for Jameson.

“I’m fine. It’s just a heart issue. It flared up, so Jasper insisted on sending me to the hospital at night,” Newton explained while looking at Alyssa lovingly.

“Grandpa, you cannot slack off. You need to go for regular checkups like I asked you to,” Alyssa reminded

him, feeling worried.

“Alice, is this...” Newton turned his gaze to Jameson.

“Hello, Mr. Beckett Senior. I am Jameson Schmidt,” Jameson introduced himself.

“Oh, I remember now. I saw you at Lyla’s birthday party. You’re Victor Schmidt’s youngest son, the

talented fellow,” Newton politely complimented Jameson.

However, he felt uneasy upon seeing the intimacy between Jameson and Alyssa. He feared that the two

were dating.

Besides, he clearly sensed the tension between Alyssa and Jasper this time. It was worse than the time

when they were newly divorced. He felt troubled by the situation.

Just as Newton was about to chat with Alyssa, he was interrupted by a sweet voice, “Grandpa, how are

are you doing?”

Alyssa looked up coldly and spotted Zoe running toward them in pajamas, trailed by two b*dyguards who

kept a distance from her.

Newton frowned upon seeing Zoe, and he glared at Jasper. Jasper furrowed his brow and cast an icy

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After a pause, she finally questioned him flatly, “Jimmy, was that you?”

His heart leaped into his throat. “What?”

She refrained from interrogating him. She slowly rose from the bench and announced, “I’m hungry. I’ll go get some food.”

Worried about her, Jameson rose from the bench and said, “I’ll go with you.”

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the hospital.

Chapter 818

Zoe enthusiastically leaned toward Newton and assured him, “Jasper and I will stay by your side tonight.

I’ll be here for as long as you stay.”

Hearing this, Jasper scowled. Alyssa noticed his expression. Unlike others, Jasper was unreserved in

expressing his dislikes. With a quick temper and low emotional intelligence, he relied on capability rather

than diplomacy for business deals.

She remembered that he always scowled at her when they were married. Was he upset at Zoe?

She looked away, refusing to pay him any attention. Even if he was unhappy with Zoe now, he must have

been welcoming toward her when she knocked on his hotel room door on the night of the scandal.

“Ms. Zoe, I have undergone the checkups. It’s not a huge issue at all. I can be discharged now,” Newton

replied.

He always addressed Landon by his first name, but with Zoe, he stuck to “Ms. Zoe”, seemingly keeping a

distance between them.

He teased, “If you stay by my side when I’m at the hospital, I might never get discharged.”

It was a joke that sounded jarring and humiliating to Zoe.

Before this, Betty had complained about Newton to Zoe, claiming that Newton was an old fool who didn't

know the good from the bad.

Betty accused Newton of doting on Alyssa and ignoring her. Newton not only opposed Jasper's divorce

but also passed on a family heirloom—a crystal bracelet—to Alyssa.

It was a good thing that Liana had destroyed that crystal bracelet out of spite. Zoe thought that Liana had

finally done something right for once before being kicked out.

Panicking, she explained, "No, Grandpa. That wasn't my intention."

She then cast a pitiful look at Jasper, but he didn't even pay her attention, blocking out any

communication with her.

"Ms. Zoe, I appreciate your concern, but I only need Jasper and Ms. Alyssa by my side. It's late now and

rather dangerous for a young lady to wander out here alone. I see that your bodyguards are here with you.

Have them send you home," Newton addressed Zoe warmly without fuss.

Despite his kind attitude, Zoe looked ashen-faced. Newton didn't accept her goodwill and even refused to

have Jasper send her home. It was his way of telling her to get lost.

How despicable!

When Newton was sent to a care facility in the future, she secretly vowed to bribe the caretakers so they

would neglect and abuse him.

“Alice! Come here!” Newton changed his expression and waved at Alyssa with a smile, ignoring Zoe.

“Sure, Grandpa,” answered Alyssa.

She was averse to Jasper but approached Newton nonetheless to appease him.

Alyssa, a sassy and capable woman, turned into a demure young lady when she shuffled toward Newton.

Her demeanor reminded Jasper of the time when she first married him.

The memory moved Jasper.

Alyssa was once in love with him, but he was blind to his feelings and was terrible at expressing himself.

But that meant nothing now.

Jasper cast another hurtful look at Alyssa.

Newton caressed Alyssa’s hair and extended an invitation, “Alice, would you come home with me? You

and Jasper can stay the night at Crescent Bay.”

Worried that she might feel uneasy, he quickly added, “My place is huge and has many rooms. You can

stay in the room next to mine.”

Chapter 819

Newton added, “Tomorrow, I’ll get this little punk to make all three meals for you. He’ll prepare a bath for

you tonight. Ben is on leave for the next two days, so Jasper will take over all the housework.”

Jasper pressed his lips as his brows twitched in surprise. Managing household tasks was one thing, but

entrusting him with cooking? Was Newton being a bit too callous about his health and safety?

“Grandpa, I...” Alyssa began, her voice trailing off in hesitation.

Just as she was trying to come up with a way to excuse herself, Jameson approached them calmly and

flashed a warm and gentlemanly smile at Newton.

Jameson said, “Mr. Beckett Senior, I’m afraid Lyse won’t be joining you tonight.”

“Why?” Newton asked, his brow furrowed.

Jameson sighed deeply, casting a sympathetic glance at Alyssa’s fatigued expression. “Lyse has just

performed a ten-hour surgery on my brother, David. She's utterly exhausted, almost fainting after

completing the surgery."

"What?" Newton leaned forward in surprise.

Similarly, Jasper was caught off guard, a mixture of emotions in his eyes, including disbelief.

So, she had just undergone a major surgery. That explained her sick complexion.

Jasper's jaw stiffened, and he attempted to speak, but the words got stuck in his throat.

Jasper chided himself for his awkwardness and hesitation.

"That's why I'm taking Lyse home now. My villa is behind hers, so I'll give her a ride," Jameson explained,

placing a hand on Alyssa's shoulder, mindful not to cross a line.

He behaved gentlemanly in front of the Becketts.

He continued, "Mr. Beckett Senior, know you care for Lyse. But she's divorced now. Staying at your place

with Jasper is inappropriate. That's my opinion as an outsider. If you truly care for her, you need to be

more mindful."

Jameson expressed his opinion calmly and humbly, but Newton was irritated. Even Jasper seethed at

Jameson's audacity. How dared he lecture an elder?

Frowning, Jasper was about to retort when Alyssa interjected, "Jimmy, Grandpa is my family. He cares

about me. Please don't say anything like that in the future."

"Gosh! Mr. Beckett Senior! I never thought I'd run into you here. What a coincidence!" a voice interrupted

their conversation.

Everyone looked in the direction to find Victor and his secretary hurrying toward them.

Alyssa looked surprised by Victor's behavior. She was impressed by his emotional control. Despite previously breaking down over David's amputation, the seasoned businessman now chatted and laughed as if nothing had happened.

However, Victor's behavior made sense. He wouldn't want to show vulnerability in front of the Becketts,

his archenemies.

Concerned, Newton asked, "Victor, I heard your son David is facing health issues. Is he okay?"

"David had a car accident, and things looked grim, but Lyse pulled him through!" Victor turned to Alyssa with gratitude in his eyes.

He added, "Some may not appreciate Lyse, but she's a treasure to our family. We'll treat her well. Winston is like a brother to me, so I'll treat her as my own daughter!"

Chapter 820

Those words from Victor seemed to carry a hint of sarcasm that likely didn't escape anyone in the room.

Victor had long found out about Alyssa's divorce, with Jasper being her ex-husband.

At that time, he showed his contempt, referring to her as a "gem in the rough" with strong disapproval.

Entering into marriage with the Beckett family was already quite ridiculous. Marrying the illegitimate son, Jasper, served to diminish her social standing even more.

He believed that his son, even if it were someone like Jameson, would be a far superior option compared

to Jasper.

"Uncle Victor, are you thirsty? Shall I make you some tea?"

Alyssa felt uneasy hearing this. She was aware of Victor's closeness to Winston, but such remarks about

Newton was crossing the line.

"Lyse, I'm not thirsty! Plus, I haven't praised you enough!" Victor showed no restraint.

Speechless, Alyssa couldn't find the words to respond.

Zoe's intense dislike for Alyssa was evident in her darkened expression and gritted teeth.

She couldn't help but wonder why all the prominent figures in Solana City were drawn to this bitch. Were

There are no other women left?

Jasper gazed at Alyssa with a chilling stare, mirroring the discomfort he felt inside.

“So Lyse is like your biological daughter, huh? It seems you do have a liking for daughters, Victor. Having

One daughter isn't enough. You even want to adopt another daughter.”

Newton seized Victor's verbal slip and insisted, “I'm different. I want a granddaughter-in-law. And I only

i want Lyse as my granddaughter-in-law. Others? Hmph, no chance.”

Newton's words left Alyssa in a state of shock.

Jameson displayed a smile, yet he concealed his frustration in his clenched fist behind Alyssa.

Zoe's mind buzzed as a tremendous sense of shame and humiliation tore her heart.

She thought that she shouldn't have come here. She should have stayed home and waited for her

grandfather and mother to figure out a way for her to marry into the Beckett family.

Taking matters into her own hands only led to repeated humiliation!

Victor's smile froze for a moment. Just as he was about to respond, Jasper spoke with a cool and unequivocal tone.

“Grandpa, Alyssa, and I finalized our divorce more than six months ago. Alyssa has found someone else. Your insistence is going to make things difficult.”

The corridor suddenly fell silent.

Alyssa’s heart clenched abruptly.

However, it was only a fleeting moment before she released a chuckle of relief.

There wasn’t much to regret. This wasn’t the first time Jasper had given up on her.

3

The pledges and assurances that men express to women prove to be deceptive.

Who among them could genuinely pursue and love a woman for a lifetime?

Despite Winston’s steadfast dedication to justice and righteousness, he was unable to do so too.

After all, her father’s romantic history was quite the joke.

“You brat! What nonsense are you talking about?” Newton fixed a stern gaze on his grandson, clenching

his teeth while forcefully uttering each word.

He would have slapped his mouth shut if there weren’t so many people around!

Victor remarked with a light laugh, “Given Mr. Jasper’s statement, it appears he has already moved on.

Considering that all parties involved have moved on, wouldn’t you agree, Mr. Beckett Senior, that it’s the

best outcome for Mr. Beckett and Lyse?”

Chapter 821

Victor eventually arranged for Jameson to take Alyssa home.

Jasper pushed Newton's wheelchair toward the parking lot, with Zoe trailing behind like an annoying tag-along.

"How long do you plan to keep following me?" Jasper suddenly stopped. He did not bother to look back

while he asked.

Zoe was taken by surprise. She almost collided with Jasper and stumbled awkwardly.

"Ja-Jasper, I want to accompany you in taking Grandpa home."

Zoe tried to look pitiful and said, "Grandpa just got discharged from the hospital. There must be a lot to take care of. I want to help you..."

"Help? What can you do?" Jasper asked bluntly.

Zoe couldn't find any words to respond.

"I've watched you grow up. I've seen how Mrs. Harper and your brother protect you. Your hands haven't even touched a speck of dirt. What can you do?" Jasper retorted without sparing her any dignity.

"Jasper, I ..."

"Think about what Grandpa needs. You know it in your heart."

Jasper thought of Alyssa. His heart was tightening, and he lowered his gaze.

“If you have that intention, go back and take care of Mr. Cornelius.”

With that, he pushed Newton away.

Zoe stood alone, her face turning red with frustration as the wind tousled her hair.

The driver piloted the car home, with Benjamin as the escort, while Jasper occupied the back seat

alongside his grandfather.

The car’s interior exudes warmth, yet Newton’s cold expression rendered it akin to an ice cellar.

Jasper knew his grandfather was angry. Yet, the divorce between him and Alyssa persisted as a reality,

and their entrenched disagreements remained unsolvable-another undeniable fact.

Despite pouring his heart into pursuing her and risking his life, he found it impossible to earn even a

modicum of trust from her.

While he was unafraid of making one-sided sacrifices, the absence of trust from her troubled him deeply.

Upon reaching the villa in Crescent Bay, Jasper alighted from the car and aided Ben in readying the

wheelchair. He intended to assist Newton in settling into the wheelchair.

“I won’t use a wheelchair. I’m not disabled. Why should I use a wheelchair?”
Newton impatiently pulled

Jasper stepped aside and instructed Ben, “Ben, get my cane.”

Soon, Ben brought the cane over.

Newton took the cane, tightly pressed his l*ps together, and swung his arm at Jasper’s back without

uttering a word!

Newton’s sudden action startled Ben so much that he was left speechless.

A resounding thud echoed as Jasper winced, feeling a dull ache spread across his back, and he furrowed

his brow.

“You ungrateful brat! What has gotten into you? Why are you still alive? Just die!”

Newton was consumed by anger. Unable to contain his rage, he swung his cane at Jasper once more.

“She is such a good girl, and you had to ruin the marriage. Why did you say those things? Why did you

push her away? Is your brain clogged with shit?”

In the cold moonlight, Jasper’s handsome face took on a particularly icy and lonely appearance. He

gritted his teeth, enduring his grandfather’s harsh reprimands.

“Are you blind? Can’t you see how much the Schmidt guy cares about Alice? Can’t you see they’re growing

close? Can’t you see Victor wants Alice as his daughter-in-law?”

Newton barraged him with rhetorical questions, teetering on the brink of erupting into expletives.

“Your connection with that girl from the Harper family is ambiguous. Even if you’re innocent, you should

go all out to explain to Alice to prove your sincerity!”

Chapter 822

“At times like these, you should hold on to Alice’s hand! Despite the rumors or turmoil the Harper family stirred, you mustn’t let go of her hand!”

Jasper was against the idea of letting that occur, and he was also not inclined to stand by and observe Alyssa being with Jameson without the capacity to intervene.

“Grandpa, I did say those things, and I did do those things. You can hit me.”

Jasper tightened his fists, his eyes turning red.

“Hit me and scold me as much as you want, then rest early. It’s time to let go of everything between me and Alyssa.”

“Let go? You want me to let go? Then what about you? Are you going to marry that improper girl from the Harper family?”

Newton’s head buzzed with anger, and only with Ben’s support did he manage to stand steadily.

“Do I have to get married? I’ve been married once, and that’s enough. I can live without marriage. I have

no interest in continuing the family line, nor do I like children.”

As Jasper spoke those words, an inexplicable ache gripped his heart with each utterance.

It wasn't that he held any aversion toward children. Yet, the idea of not sharing the joy of parenthood with

The woman he loved made the presence of children seem inconsequential to him.

He couldn't bring himself to offer complete paternal affection to a child born out of anything other than

genuine love for the mother. Such a situation wouldn't be fair to the child.

“Why should I let go of such a wonderful girl? She will be my granddaughter-in-law as long as I'm still

breathing!”

With eyes red and filled with pain, Newton slammed his cane on the ground.

“Perhaps to you, Alice is only a woman you liked. But for me, she is not only a filial child but also my

savior! On that Christmas night two years ago, had it not been for Alice and her swift action in getting

to the hospital, you would have lost your grandfather by now!”

Jasper's eyes darkened, “I know, during that car accident, you were seriously injured, and if it weren't

Alyssa ...”

“You only know that she took me to the hospital, but do you know how severe her injuries were at that

Newton was filled with grief, his eyes welling up with tears.

“I was in a coma, and none of you could rush back from abroad. The only people by my side were Alice and Ben! I had no idea then how badly Alice was hurt! Head injuries, blood everywhere... She even

repeatedly instructed Ben not to tell you and me, afraid that we would worry!”

Jasper’s pupils quivered intensely. His heart ached as he absorbed those words.

Upon hearing this, Ben remembered a moment from the past and bowed his head in sorrow.

The concealed truth within him felt suffocating. Yet, as a dedicated secretary, he faithfully maintained confidentiality, strictly following the instructions of Newton and Alyssa.

“Grandpa, is that true?” Jasper was completely stunned.

“At this point, why would I make up such lies to fool you?”

Overwhelmed by intense emotions, Newton was unable to stand any longer and finally sank into the

wheelchair.

“The sacrifices and efforts Alice made for you go far beyond your imagination. It’s much more than you realize. But in the past, you were deceived by that Gardner girl and couldn’t recognize the goodness in

Alice.

“You have a debt to Alice that you won’t be able to repay in your lifetime. If she persists in being stubborn or disliking you forever, it’s your own fault. You should bear the consequences for what you’ve done!”

Newton finished speaking and pushed the wheelchair forward without looking back.

“Mr. Newton, let me take you back to your room,” Ben said anxiously.

“No need! I’m in a bad mood. Don’t bother any of you!”

A chilling stillness gripped the atmosphere, and Jasper felt like he almost couldn’t breathe.

“Ben, you’ve seen it for yourself. Grandpa doesn’t want to see me.”

Jasper’s throat rolled dryly.

His voice was low and hoarse as he instructed Ben, “Tonight, I’ll stay in a hotel near Crescent Bay. Let me

know if there’s any issue with Grandpa, and I’ll rush over. I won’t stay here and cause trouble for the old

man. I’ll leave for now.”

Chapter 823

“Mr. Jasper! Wait!” Ben called out to him.

Jasper asked, “Do you have something else to say, Ben?”

“Is it really impossible for you and Ms. Alyssa anymore?”

Jasper felt a stab in his heart.

“I don’t know.”

“Ms. Alyssa has something on her that you don’t know.” Ben clenched his fist and struggled with the

words.

Jasper turned back with a look of intense curiosity, “What is it?”

“Ms. Alyssa made me promise to keep it a secret. I can’t say,” Ben looked conflicted.

“But I hope that Ms. Alyssa can tell you herself one day.”

Jasper’s curiosity surged.

Alyssa initially hid her identity as the heiress of the Taylor family, devoting herself to him and loving him for 13 years.

These once-secretive matters were enough to deliver a soul-shaking impact on him.

What other secrets was she hiding from him?

Could they be even more shocking than those he already knew? 1

Two days after the amputation surgery, David woke up.

Alyssa arrived at the hospital early that day. She didn’t just finish the surgery and leave.

After all, Victor had entrusted her. She had an obligation to follow up on the subsequent treatments.

Alyssa examined David's newly reattached left leg in the hospital ward with two attending physicians.

His right leg had already been replaced with a prosthetic.

"My legs... My legs..." David cried desolately with a bleak expression, but the tears wouldn't come

anymore. "I'm done... My life is over!"

Newton was filled with grief, his eyes welling up with tears.

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repeatedly instructed Ben not to tell you and me, afraid that we would worry!"

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know if there’s any issue with Grandpa, and I’ll rush over. I won’t stay here and cause trouble for the old

man. I’ll leave for now.”

Chapter 824

After hearing Jameson's side of the story, Alyssa couldn't help but find it unbelievable.

Setting aside Jameson's refined and elegant appearance, she doubted whether he could commit such a brutal act. 3

Even if he wanted to deal with David, given his status, he could easily find someone else to handle it. Why would he personally get involved? 1

She regained her composure and asserted firmly, "Mr. David, this is a grave matter, and you need concrete evidence. Furthermore, you should address these concerns with Uncle Victor and the authorities, not with me."

"Ms. Alyssa, you saved me. You are my benefactor! I'm not so heartless as to stand by and watch you walk into the lion's den without knowing its inhabitants!"

With anxiety and sincerity in his voice, David continued, "I know Jameson is after you, and you two appear to be close. I fear you might be blinded by him!"

"That man has been psychologically disturbed since childhood. His refinement is merely a façade. In truth, he's a wolf in sheep's clothing!"

"His pursuit of you is solely to leverage the Taylor family's influence to turn his life around. He doesn't

genuinely care about you.

"Jameson may not be entirely malevolent, but he certainly isn't virtuous. After all, he orchestrated the ‘

accident' at the racecourse.”

David was acutely aware that Jameson was channeling his anger on Alyssa's behalf, and it was

particularly unsettling considering Jameson's inclination to take matters into his own hands.

A marital union with Alyssa seemed unequivocally unattainable given David's present circumstances.

Unable to have her, he pledged to disrupt Jameson's path. His resolve was firm—he aimed to expose the

hypocritical mask Jameson wore.

Exiting the hospital room, Alyssa appeared lost in contemplation. Outside, the Schmidt family inquired

about the situation, and Alyssa responded sincerely, though her distracted eyes betrayed her thoughts.

At that moment, Alyssa caught sight of Jameson standing in the corner. She pursed her lips and walked

straight toward him.

“Lyse, I appreciate your efforts,” Jameson said, standing upright and distancing himself from the wall with

a smile.

Alyssa, who wore a mask, comforted David, saying, “Please remain calm.”

She added, “Just saving one leg already makes you luckier than many others.”

“Someone intentionally harmed me. Jameson is behind it!”

David’s expression suddenly turned fierce as he grabbed Alyssa’s hand.

Feeling a sense of alarm, Alyssa cast a quick glance at the two doctors. Luckily, they were a distance away, and David’s indistinct words went unnoticed by them.

Alyssa asked the doctors to leave, and she went to close the door.

With a grave expression, she turned to David and inquired, “Mr. David, during the last surgery, while you were under anesthesia, you mentioned that Jameson tried to kill you. Do you have any evidence?”

David trembled violently, clearly recalling the night of the accident with intense fear.

“After my car fl*pped, the driver died on the spot, but my secretary survived. I was pinned under the car, unable to move, but I distinctly remember my leg was not broken. It was still functional.”

Alyssa furrowed her brow. “And then?”

David’s eyes widened with fear as he recounted, “Then I saw a black car slowly approaching. A man wearing a cap and a black mask exited the car. I won’t mistake his face and his eyes. It was Jameson!”

Alyssa’s heart tightened.

“He walked over, holding an iron rod. Without a word, he beat my secretary to death in front of me! Then,

He raised the rod high and struck my leg! I screamed in agony, and after that, I can’t remember anything

else.”

Chapter 825

Alyssa remarked, “David lost a leg. He wouldn’t frame you so blatantly.”

Through gritted teeth, Jameson explained, “David is just a pawn for Josh. He’s been involved in various underhanded activities orchestrated by Josh.

“David has accumulated numerous enemies in Solana City, and plenty of people would seize the opportunity to retaliate against him. Besides, what happened to him today, he brought upon himself.”

Then, he disclosed everything that happened at the racecourse to Alyssa.

“If there’s anyone with sinister motives, it’s David!”

Alyssa stared at him calmly.

“Lyse, I’ve never given much weight to the Schmidt family. If I were to take action against them, I wouldn’t resort to such crude methods. It doesn’t align with my taste.”

Jameson adjusted his posture, raising the coffee cup and taking a sip, projecting confidence and

refinement.

Having forsaken his conscience to survive with his mother in Kontina for 15 years, he had become adept at putting on a performance, crafting each lie to be as convincing as possible.

Even in the sincerity of his love for a woman, he found himself instinctively resorting to deception time and time again.

Lies could be virtuous or malicious, but he was confident that all the lies he told Alyssa were driven by

good intentions-a manifestation of his love..

Alyssa fixed her gaze on him, the sharp intensity of her eyes causing even someone as strong-willed and ruthless as Jameson to feel a twinge in his heart.

“Jimmy, honesty and kindness matter to me. It’s not about lacking trust in you. I simply hope that yo

maintain a sincere and compassionate heart, regardless of the future, just as you did in our childhood.

Jameson’s fingers, resting on the table, curled inwardly. His heart tightened, and a wave of shame- induced pain washed over him,

He weakly lifted the corner of his lips, grabbed a fork, took a substantial bite of cake, and chewed

forcefully.

Jameson reflected in silence. Much like his all-encompassing love for Lyse, he acknowledged that

After parting with Jameson, Alyssa felt a mix of emotions for some reason.

At this moment, Jonah’s call came in. She snapped out of her thoughts and quickly answered the call.

“Jonah.”

“Lyse, Axel has managed to get what

“What is it?” Alyssa asked, puzzled.

“Julien Lovelace.”

you wanted.”

Alyssa coughed, nearly choking on her saliva upon hearing that.

“Axel has put in a lot of effort to bring him back to Solana City. When you see him tonight, you’d better thank him properly.”

“Axel will be back tonight, too? That’s great! I miss him so much!” Alyssa rubbed her eyes, and her voice choked up a bit.

Perceptive as always, Jonah quickly picked up on Alyssa’s emotions and said, “My bad. Axel planned to keep his return a surprise for you, but I got carried away and accidentally let it slip.”

“Jonah, I don’t need surprises. I just want everyone to be with me.”

However, she knew it was difficult.

“Lyse, are you in Solana City, at the hospital where David is?”

“Yeah.”

“I’ll come pick you up.”

“No need, Jonah. I can’t go back for now.”

“It’s not just my idea. It’s also Dad’s.”

Jonah’s tone grew somber as he continued, “Dad said you’ve helped Mr. David with his leg, and you

done your duty. There’s no need to worry about it anymore.

“Also, their family must be in chaos because of this incident. Although we have a good relationship,

avoiding suspicion is better now. So Dad asked me to bring you back.”

In the next moment, he was thoroughly surprised!

In the car’s back seat, a tall man over six feet was lying horizontally, hands and feet bound. His mouth was tightly taped shut, and the only sounds he could make were muffled protests.

He looked both resentful and pitiful.

Jonah wondered if that man was Julien Lovelace.

Jonah stood in surprise for a moment before he crouched down. He braced himself with his left arm on the seat and removed the tape from Julien’s mouth with his right hand.

Julien struggled to catch his breath.

His captivating fox-like visage was adorned with a subtle sheen of sweat, lending him an enchanting androgynous allure.

His skin resembled premium porcelain, boasting a flawless and fair complexion. The allure of his captivating appearance was accentuated by his rosy, soft lips, surpassing the beauty of most women.

Yet, what captivated Jonah the most were those doe-like eyes.

From the depths of his black pupils, he glimpsed a long-lost, pristine soul that never failed to stir his spirit and body, regardless of the passage of time.

As their eyes locked, time appeared to freeze.

“Hey, why did you pull so hard? Do you realize you’ve hurt my face?” Julien glared at Jonah in irritation, yet his eyes seemed transfixed on this handsome face, unable to look away.

“Sorry,” Jonah genuinely apologize.

“Hurry up and untie me!”

Julien kicked his legs.

“The blood in my whole b*dy can’t circulate! I’m suffocating!”

“No, I’m afraid I can’t do that.”

“What?”

“Wait for Axel to come and release you.”

Jonah locked eyes with him, and a faint smile played on his l*ps.

“If you run away, I’m afraid I won’t be able to catch you. The person who tied you up should be the one to untie you, right?”

Chapter 826

“Got it, Jonah. You don’t have to come pick me up. I’ll drive back later,” Alyssa said.

It was nighttime at Belbanks. A sleek black Maserati raced through the rear entrance of Heights New Villa,

executing a stylish drift before smoothly coming to a stop in the backyard.

After being absent for six months, Axel emerged from the car and headed straight for Jonah, who had

I have been patiently waiting.

“Jonah! I missed you so much!”

“Me too.”

Jonah and Axel exchanged a high-five. Jonah then looked toward the tinted car window and asked, “Is

Mr. Lovelace inside the car?”

“Exactly,” Axel smirked, “He’s not very cooperative.”

“Even the most dishonest person would probably be truthful when encountering you.”

Jonah’s gentle eyes flashed with a trace of worry as he asked. “But you didn’t harm him, did you?”

“In what way? Physically, no, but does emotional harm count?”

Jonah was rendered speechless by Axel’s reply.

Axel suddenly looked pained. He exclaimed, “Damn! I need to peel, I need to use the toilet right away!”

Jonah, wait for me!”

Before finishing his sentence, Axel had already sprinted away with his legs crossed.

Jonah shook his head with a wry smile. “What has he been doing for the past few years wandering

overseas? His kidneys seemed to be worse than before.”

After a while, Jonah noticed the car not far away, rocking a few times before it became still.

Curiosity getting the better of him, he approached the car

As he approached the front of the car, he heard movement from inside, the sound intensifying as if

someone had detected footsteps outside.

Jonah squinted. Unable to resist his curiosity, he pulled open the car door.

In the next moment, he was thoroughly surprised!

In the car's back seat, a tall man over six feet was lying horizontally, hands and feet bound. His mouth was tightly taped shut, and the only sounds he could make were muffled protests.

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“Hurry up and untie me!”

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“No, I’m afraid I can’t do that.”

“What?”

“Wait for Axel to come and release you.”

Jonah locked eyes with him, and a faint smile played on his lips.

Chapter 827

Julien's eyes were red and slightly teary as he stared at Jonah in complete astonishment.

He found himself bewildered by Jonah's twisted mindset.

If he didn't possess such striking looks, Julien might genuinely believe him to be a monster!

"Are you in cahoots with the one who kidnapped me? Are you the kidnapper?" Julien questioned with a trembling voice.

Jonah squinted, extending a gentlemanly hand toward him. "Let me introduce myself. I am Jonah Taylor, the CEO of KS Group. It's a pleasure to meet you.

"KS...?" Julien was startled, "My aunt. It's you! Are you..."

"Exactly as you think."

Jonah's fingers tightened, and he awkwardly smiled, "We'll shake hands after Axel unties you."

"Jonah!"

Axel returned in long strides, muttering. "The toilet is too far. I almost peed halfway. What's the point of having such a big house?"

Jonah frowned, feeling somewhat amused.

No matter how large the Taylor family's house was, it was still a cage for Axel. Just like Alyssa, he detested restrictions and craved freedom.

Thinking of Alyssa, Jonah couldn't help but feel sorry for her. Her three years of marriage with Jasper were undoubtedly a prison sentence for her.

“You!” Julien exclaimed upon seeing Axel, twisting his expression in frustration. Luckily, his good looks spared him from looking outright scary

Axel arched an eyebrow, casually leaning on the car door frame with a smirk.

“I’ve said it before, you twerp-there’s no such thing as a free lunch. You can’t just touch my hands and sit on my lap without giving something in return.”

Jonah’s eyes flickered. He felt too much information was in that statement, and he needed a moment to digest it.

Julien spat at Axel angrily. “How shameless can you be? Selling your looks. You’re despicable!*

Axel made a disgusted expression, “Do you think I enjoy this? I’m a straight guy! I’ve sacrificed a lot for

you, and all you’ve given me is trauma. You’re terrifying.”

“You!”

Julien was so angry that his handsome face turned red as he roared, “You’re the one who should be

called a twerp!”

Axel raised his eyebrows, confused. “Huh?”

*All show and no substance!” Julien said, glancing provocatively at Axel’s crotch.

“You’re just a F***ing bastard who is asking for a beating!”

Axel was about to rush forward and give Julien a flying kick, but Jonah held him back.

“Axel, Mr. Lovelace is Mandy’s relative and a guest invited by Lyse. Don’t mess around.”

“Damn it! If it weren’t for Lyse, I’d definitely make him impotent!” Axel gritted his teeth.

Jonah smiled wryly. He finally understood why Axel had taped this man’s mouth shut all the

He stepped forward and untied the ropes binding Julien’s wrists and ankles.

way here.

Jonah had never seen a man with such fair skin. As the ropes grazed his skin, they imprinted vivid red

lines on his nearly transparent complexion, oddly triggering an unexplainable sense of protectiveness in

Jonah.

“Ugh! That hurts.” Julien rubbed his wrists and furrowed his brow.

Axel snorted in disdain. “Tsk. You’re just whining like a woman. Disgusting.”

Jonah looked at Julien’s swollen ankles and asked, “Can you still stand?”

Julien pursed his lips and slowly stood up. Then, he let out a cry.

His legs had been bound for several hours, and they had long gone numb.

There was no way he could stand.

Chapter 828

In the blink of an eye, Julien's body tilted forward. He swiftly clutched onto Jonah's sturdy shoulders, finding refuge in the firm hold.

Responding with quick reflexes, Jonah intervened to prevent Julien from toppling over, firmly securing him with a grip around his waist.

In that moment, the duo struck a pose reminiscent of a classic romantic scene from a soap opera, leaving Axel, who stood nearby, in utter amazement.

"Uh, sorry about that." Julien's cheeks blushed with embarrassment.

Having harbored a lot of pent-up anger, Julien found solace in the embrace, his frustration easing.

"No need to apologize. If anything, we should be sorry," Jonah asserted without hesitation, effortlessly

lifting Julien in a princess-style embrace.

The unexpected move by Jonah caught Julien off guard, causing his heart to pound loudly in his chest.

Julien recognized his penchant for indulging in earthly pleasures, engaging in flirtation with handsome

men, and succumbing to temptation after a few drinks. These tendencies were how he had ended up in

Axel's hands.

Yet, his sentiments toward Jonah in this particular instance took a completely different turn. Julien

couldn't help it. He raised his arms and embraced Jonah's neck.

"What the heck? What's going on?"

Alyssa happened to arrive at that moment together with Silas and Sean.

Everyone was left dumbfounded by the scene before them.

"Is the person Mr. Jonah holding a man or a woman?" Sean was puzzled.

Silas was excited and exclaimed, "Wow! Could it be our future sister-in-law?"

Astonished, Alyssa turned speechless as she observed the scene.

"You guys, take a closer look. It's obviously a man!"

Silas and Sean were taken aback, exclaiming. "A man?"

Upon closer inspection, it was indeed quite evident. However, he had a slim figure and a face that was

delicate and effeminate.

"Well, that excitement was short-lived. I thought a man from our Taylor family was finally getting out of singlehood."

Silas sighed with mock disappointment.

"Why would Jonah hug a man so passionately?"

"Mr. Lovelace, you've had a tough journey," Alyssa greeted with a polite smile as she approached them.

"Axel's hospitality fell short. Allow me to make it up to you."

“Are you the Alyssa my aunt often mentions? Julien spoke in a cute tone, acting like a little princess in Jonah’s arms

“Yes, I am Alyssa,”

Alyssa remained composed, her beautiful eyes curved into a smile.

“Mr. Lovelace, you must be hungry and tired after the journey. How about having a meal, showering, and resting for the night? We can discuss things later.”

Through gritted teeth, Julien said, “Ms. Alyssa, I warn you-this is kidnapping, and I can sue you for it.”

Julien was still full of resentment.

“I know. It’s our fault for not being good hosts. I apologize for any inconvenience caused. To make amends, how about having Mr. Jonah from the KS Group keep you company for dinner tonight?”

Alyssa’s statement left Jonah speechless.

“If Mr. Lovelace is comfortable with it, Jonah can also help you with bathing and changing.”

Alyssa’s cheerful and sweet smile seemed harmless.

Alyssa’s reply took Jonah aback.

Julien’s gaze drifted, and he swallowed hard.

Everyone was stunned as Alyssa had just offered her own brother to Julien without even batting an eye!

Chapter 829

Alyssa held Axel intimately in the living room, and Axel also embraced his sister. If they weren't siblings, others might think they were a newlywed couple cherishing their reunion.

“Axel, you went through a lot this time,” Alyssa pouted.

“It's not a big deal. I just brought someone back. It's nothing exhausting.” Axel replied while gently patting her head. His eyes filled with longing and tenderness,

“As long as you'd be happy, I'd even kill him for you.”

Upon hearing that, Sean was scared out of his wits, and Silas almost spat out his tea!

At this moment, Jonah descended the stairs,

“He's asleep.”

“He's probably exhausted. Let him rest.” Alyssa sighed.

“I was too impatient. This might backfire. If Julien doesn't agree to help, I can't force him by threatening

him.”

“Lyse, don't worry.” Jonah sat beside her, gently encircling her shoulder with his arm.

“You have us. We're here to help you with things you can't accomplish on your own.”

“Exactly, Lyse,” Silas added in to comfort her.

“Why don’t you let us do something for you? We’re starting to feel irrelevant!”

Alyssa’s lips trembled. She was moved to the point of tears.

She would engrave any kindness deep into her heart-even those from her siblings.
She would always

appreciate them without assuming them as a given.

Axel’s eyes suddenly lit up as he started, “Oh, speaking of something interesting,
Lyse, I ran into a woman who looked a lot like you in Mosgravia, and I mistook
her for you. I couldn’t resist and gave her a pat on

the back.

“She turned around and glared at me, and that’s when I realized it wasn’t you
Damn, it was awkward. But she dared to glare at me. I’ve been alive for 30 years,
and no woman apart from you has dared to give me

such a look.”

“Tsk, nobody can glare at you. How awesome,” Silas teased while sipping his tea.

“Can you stop being so ridiculous? Our Lyse is a beauty. There’s no way you can
find another woman whole

looks like her. You’re just bragging.

“Silas, you’re giving up on your crotch again, huh?” Axel quirked an eyebrow at
him.

“Axel, did the person you saw really look like me?” Alyssa asked with great
curiosity.

“Very much so. My eyesight is usually good, I rarely mistook people. But that time, I even mistook her for you. You guys really look alike!”

Axel pondered while rubbing his chin. “Hmm... Could she be one of the illegitimate children?

Father had left abroad? I should’ve grabbed her and asked about her father.”

Alyssa and Silas were left speechless by Axel’s wild story.

“The world is vast. It’s not impossible for two people to look alike. Axel, you’re thinking too much,” Jonah

said, shaking his head.

Suddenly, Alyssa’s heart skipped a beat.

She abruptly remembered Jasper holding her and hysterically trying to explain to her on a chilly night in

the snow-covered park.

He said he was innocent. He said he went to that hotel because he was worried about her.

He claimed to have seen someone who looked exactly like her entering the hotel with a stranger. That

was why he had recklessly chased after them.

That was how he got caught, resulting in the scandal of an alleged rendezvous at a hotel.

Alyssa’s pupils contracted, and her heartbeat accelerated.

Could

the words between

Did he really see a woman who looked exactly like her?

But could such a coincidence happen in the world?

Even if it could, why did Zoe appear in that hotel, and why did Jasper go to her room?

Chapter 830

“Hey, sweetheart, what’s on your mind? Your eyes are wandering.”

Axel noticed Alyssa’s vacant gaze and reached out and waved before her eyes.

“Axel, I...”

Alyssa pondered the resemblance to the woman who bore a striking likeness to her, causing her to

hesitate before uttering her thoughts.

“What’s wrong, Lyse? You’ve always been straightforward. Why are you hesitating now?” Axel asked in

surprise.

“It’s nothing.”

That woman was no hand counter. Besides,

She was far away in Mosgravia.

Even if she had a slight doubt in her heart, she couldn't investigate it through that woman. She could only

investigate through Zoe.

However, delving into these matters seemed futile.

Jasper had explicitly stated in front of Newton that their relationship was a thing of the past. Any

the possibility of rekindling their connection was long gone.

Despite this explicit declaration, she still found herself hesitating and was at a loss.

Alyssa sneered quietly, curling her lips into a chilly smile. Then, she grabbed the chilled remnants of tea in

her hand and downed it in one swift gulp.

In the depths of her heart, she pondered the irony of her situation. She was dwelling on a man who had

left her stranded not once but twice. She should've been grateful that she managed to avoid falling into

the same pitfalls again.

Jonah, who was seated next to Alyssa, observed the complexity of her feelings but chose to remain

silent. He opted to cradle her chilly hand within his warm grasp.

"Jonah, have you told Mandy and Winston about Julien?" Alyssa asked in a soft voice.

Winston had taken Lyla abroad to a villa for a vacation to help her cope with her feelings. Mandy and Colene went along, but they stayed in separate villas. With the elders away, the Taylor family mansion

now only housed the younger generation.

“I’ve already called Mandy,” Jonah said with a smile.

“Mandy said not to treat him like a guest, handle him however you see fit. As long as Lyse is happy, she

can practically disregard the fact that he’s her nephew.”

Alyssa couldn’t help but laugh. She knew her stepmothers cared deeply for her.

*Hey, are you calling this cutting off ties with family or disowning relatives?” Silas couldn’t help but

exclaim.

Axel’s hand slid into the depths of his black windbreaker. Retrieving a cigarette, he held it between his

slightly raised lips, exuding an air of nonchalant defiance.

“Hmph, assisting others is almost like cutting off ties with family. But aiding that Jasper guy? Now, that’s

truly disowning your own kin.”

Once again, Axel’s audacious remarks rendered everyone momentarily speechless.

Alyssa’s eyelashes trembled, yet she maintained a stoic silence.

“Lyse, there’s something I’m not sure if I should say.

“Just don’t say it,” Alyssa interjected, already anticipating that Axel’s words wouldn’t be polite.

*Jasper is now grappling with severe after-effects in his brain because of me. That incident had impacted

his nervous system. I don’t know what the future holds for him. He might suffer intermittent fainting or

even potential paralysis.” 1

Alyssa’s throat tightened.

Axel’s brows furrowed upon hearing Alyssa’s words.

“I don’t want anything to do with him anymore, but I also don’t want to owe him anything.”

Alyssa looked at Axel again, her eyes clear and cold yet strangely heart-wrenching.

“I don’t want to save him. I just want to redeem myself.”

The atmosphere in the living room grew heavier.

Out of the blue, Silas, the witty one, dropped a question. “Hey, Jonah, about that Julien... Is he really a

man?”

Jonah replied, “Yes.”

Silas continued in curiosity, “How does it feel to hold him in your arms?”

Jonah remained silent, offering no response.

thank Mi

Axel ciuddert hely but ta “Oh used to Mr Jonah Taylor was upright next not interested in

S

women. Now it turns out you have unique tastes as you should have mentioned your neendo estiver

There was no need for me to go. Lyse, you should have let Silas do it. He would love to?

“What the hell are you thinking, you punk

Chapter 831

Silas widened his eyes; almost tempted to go over and kick his cheeky younger brother.

“I’ve simply never encountered such a handsome man before, so I was a little curious! What if he’s someone who enjoys cross-dressing?”

Alyssa sighed while holding her forehead. Silas’ imagination was indeed vivid!

Axel chimed in, “Why would any typical heteroS**ual guy be interested in other men?”

Silas retorted, “That just means I’m young. Only older folks lose their curiosity!”

The brothers bantered and bickered, and the night concluded.

The following day, Julien slept until noon due to jet lag.

When he finally opened his eyes, he heard a persistent knocking on the door.

Initially, he was reluctant to open it, but the person outside was relentless and patient. The knock continued without pausing..

“What’s going on? You’re so annoying!”

Julien sprung up from the bed, marched to the door, and flung it open irritably.

Julien was stunned to see Jonah dressed impeccably in a suit.

Jonah maintained composure, yet his gaze involuntarily traced over Julien from head to toe. He couldn’t help but appreciate Julien’s well-sculpted chest and abs, finally settling on the vibrant boxer briefs.

Jonah’s eyes dimmed.

“Hey Jonah, do I look good?”

Julien casually leaned against the doorframe. He narrowed his eyes like a sly fox as he yawned.

He was naturally carefree and unrestrained. Not to mention, he was only in his underwear. He wouldn’t be shy even if he were completely n*ked.

But Julien sensed his heartbeat accelerating and a subtle unease settling in when he looked at Jonah.

In an elegant suit, Jonah exuded a composed presence that perfectly matched Julien’s preferences for

men.

Jonah casually mentioned with his deep and alluring voice, “The underwear is cute.”

Julien didn't say anything.

“Mr. Lovelace, did you sleep well last night?” Jonah asked. His eyes carried a gentle smile as he spoke.

“Fine, I suppose. It got a bit lonely with no one to keep me company in bed, Julien responded, venting his irritation about the kidnapping.

“Can I come in?”

Julien pursed his lips and eventually stepped aside to let him through.

They walked into the living room outside the bedroom, and Julien casually flopped onto the sofa, behaving as if he were in his own house. He put his feet on the coffee table and glanced at the seated

Jonah.

“You came early in the morning to see me. What's the urgency, Jonah?”

Only then did he notice a medical kit on the coffee table that appeared out of nowhere.

The next moment, Jonah suddenly knelt and grabbed Julien's ankle.

Julien's cheeks flushed, and he pulled his leg back.

“Jonah, what are you doing?”

“Your ankle still has a scratch that hasn't been treated. I'll apply some ointment for you.”

Jonah let out a subtle smile and proceeded to disinfect Julien's ankle with an alcohol pad.

The cool sensation, tinged with a slight pain, turned out to be strangely comforting. Julien squinted his

eyes and couldn't help but curl his toes in response.

Being a doctor himself, Julien recognized that these minor injuries were not a big deal. He didn't have to

get a tetanus shot or anything like that.

However, he had been residing alone overseas for numerous years, distanced from his family. Genuine.

friendships eluded him, and he found solace from stress and loneliness primarily in the nightlife, apart

from his work.

He had saved countless lives but had never been cared for like this. So when Jonah treated him in this

unexpected manner, Julien's heart fluttered, and he felt a bit at a loss.

The room was quiet, and an indescribable atmosphere permeated the air.

severe,

Even though the injury isn't ever been to avoid getting wet

Jonah kept the ointment in the kit and said gently. The never seen a man with such delicate skin j

Chapter 832

“Jonah.”

Julien raised his eyebrow deviously. He suddenly leaned closer to him. “Do you know that inexplicably nice people often have ill intentions?”

Jonah looked at Julien, and the latter’s glistening eyes instantly peered straight into his soul.

They were extremely close. Jonah could feel his eyebrow brushing against the tip of Julien’s nose.

Jonah shuddered. He stared deeply into his eyes. “What are you implying

“Did you come here to please me by Alyssa’s orders? Or were you genuinely concerned about my leg

injury?”

Julien’s voice was not as feminine as his face. Yet, it carried a seductive and alluring tone to it.

“You are Lyse’s guest and also Mandy’s nephew. It makes sense for me to do this for you.” Jonah looked

down once again.

“Huh, no wonder you’re the president. Your lips are sealed shut.”

Julien didn’t like the answer he received. He turned around, unwilling to face Jonah.

“You can leave now. Also, I’m booking my flights now and will fly first thing in the morning.

“You’re still angry, huh?” Jonah narrowed his eyes slightly as he sat beside Julien.

“What do you think?”

“What would make you calm down?”

“Ask that bastard brother of yours to get on his knees and apologize to me. Then, I will think about it.”

Julien recalled how embarrassing it was for him. His suave self was knocked out and brought back from

overseas in a sack.

Did they take him for a sack of potatoes?

“There has to be another way.”

“This is the only way.”

“He wouldn’t do it even if I told him to. Plus, he’s most likely gone, and I have no idea where he is.”

Jonah continued to smile at him. “There has to be another way. You name it.

Julien had an idea, and his lips curled into a devious smile. “Jonah, don’t ask for what you can’t deliver.

You might eat your own words.”

“Tell me what you have in mind. It’s on me to figure out whether I can do it,”
Jonah said seriously.

“If I ask you to keep me company tonight, will you do it?” Julien rested his head on his chin and stared at

his charming face.

“How do I keep you company?”

Jonah suddenly took the upper hand and came dangerously close to him. He reached out and pulled the

Windsor knot around Julien’s neck.

Julien swallowed hard. His eyes were fixed on Jonah as his mind raced with thoughts.

Normally, he wouldn’t pass up such a fresh piece of meat laid out before him like a feast on a silver

platter.”

However, to his surprise, he found himself unexpectedly dominated by the commanding presence of this

man.

Suddenly, a series of resounding knocks could be heard on the door.

“Jonah, are you in there? Is Dr. Lovelace awake? I’ve got lunch ready. Alyssa’s sweet voice came from

outside.

Jonah acknowledged her and got up slowly but elegantly. He looked at Julien from his high horse. “Your

must be hungry. My sister is a fantastic cook. She had only cooked for a handful of people. Would you

like

to try her cooking?"

Julien wanted to turn down the offer. However, his stomach decided to betray him just then, grumbling

loudly.

He gave up and resigned to his fate.

Since he was here, he might as well fill his stomach up before figuring out how to get back.

Alyssa escorted Julien to the dining room for lunch.

Meanwhile, Jonah went back to his room and locked the door.

Chapter 833

Jonah entered his study and sat at his desk. The smile that hung on his face remained.

He stretched his neck slightly backward and tugged on his tie. He undid the buttons around his collar.

Finally, he could breathe.

A silver cross fell from the opening on his shirt. It glistened faintly under the light.

Jonah closed his eyes slowly. He took a deep breath to calm his restless heart down.

At this moment, Julien's beautiful androgynous features weren't the ones occupying his mind. It was

another man—a man he thought he had forgotten yet still longed for—his old flame.

Jonah turned toward the bookshelf wall and picked two books.

The bookshelf made a “click” sound, and a secret compartment appeared to reveal an exquisite safe.

He punched the man's birthday and his own, and the safe opened.

There were a few framed photos, a sealed envelope, and a black velvet jewelry box in the safe.

Jonah opened the jewelry box. In it was a pair of diamond rings, perfect for a couple.

He picked up one of the rings and wore it on his left ring finger. Then, he took the photos out.

In the photo, a man was hugging him from behind. Anyone could tell who they were to each other from

that intimate gesture and sweet smile.

They were lovers.

That man had a pair of eyes that looked like Julien's. They were intricate and passionate.

When he saw that pair of eyes for the first time last night, he couldn't help but be captivated by them. The bittersweet memories he attempted to bury deep within his

heart resurfaced with vivid clarity, as though the events had unfolded just yesterday.

Jonah's breath quickened. His eyes reddened as he fl*pped the photo over. A neat row of words adorned the back. It read, "Jonah, I hope the world will accept us one day."

"Yet, you left me before the day ever came." He closed his eyes and k*ssed the man in the photo.

Death wasn't as frightening as one might imagine. Yet, the aftermath brought forth an unbearable ache, with every moment becoming a poignant testament to the absence of someone dearly departed.

Alyssa cooked a scrumptious meal for Julien. She hadn't cooked for a long time. Yet, she still had her

flair. Even the cook wanted to learn a few tricks from her.

Julien worked up an appetite as he looked at the array of delicious food before him. He couldn't help but salivate profusely

"I hope you don't mind how simple the meal is, Dr. Lovelace. Alyssa rested her chin on her hand as smiled at him. His eyes were riddled with hunger.

However, Julien had his ego. He wouldn't resign simply for a scrumptious meal.

He took a deep breath and looked at Alyssa coldly. "Ms. Taylor, I know my aunt adores you. However, what you're doing now won't work on me.

"I made myself clear over the phone. I don't provide my services to tycoons. Jasper is the president of the Beckett Group. I'm sure doctors are lining up for a chance to get on the Beckett family's good side. They would do what they can to treat him. You don't need me.

“I’m a man of principle. I will keep to what I said I won’t do. No one can persuade me otherwise. Please

don’t waste your time on me anymore.

Alyssa found herself perplexed by the revelation. It appeared that Jonah had failed to entice Julien.

Alyssa locked eyes with him lightly. She was as calm as a cat.

She knew men only cared about two things-dignity and their desire to win.

She reached for her teacup and took a sip. Then, she said lightly, “Sigh, I understand. Dr. Lovelace, you are

an extremely professional doctor. I’m sure you are very confident in your skills as a doctor.

“Plus, you have a perfect streak of practicing medicine over the years. You have never failed a single

operation. As long as it is your patient, you have the absolute confidence you can heal them.

“This is because you won’t accept patients you have no absolute confidence in. Am I right?”

Chapter 834

The atmosphere turned awkward all of a sudden. There was a subtle yet palpable hint of tension.

Julien’s eyes gradually widened, as if he had heard something that wounded his ego deeply. His face

contorted and flushed red. After a prolonged pause, he finally exclaimed, “Huh?”

“I think you’ve stayed too long in Mosgravia, Dr. Lovelace. It must be difficult for you to understand

Solanian now. Do you want me to explain it in Grunslanish for you?”

A sharp glint flashed in Alyssa’s eyes, her smile carrying a sense of subtle pressure.

Women hardly displayed such a smile.

It exuded the arrogance of a person of great power and the unyielding confidence of a man. The sheer Intimidation of it weighed so heavily that it shackled Julien’s carefree spirit like a ball and chain.

“Are you saying I didn’t want to take Jasper as a patient because I can’t heal him? Is that what you’re

implying?” Julien retorted through gritted teeth.

“I don’t see any other explanation.” Alyssa shrugged.

“Pah! What a joke!”

Julien slammed the table furiously. “I think you haven’t been abroad long. Ms. Taylor. You have no ideal

bow h

of a name I am in Mosgravia. I am more famous than Dr. White. I have solved countless complicated medical cases and pulled people back from the clutches of death. Even Hades owes me a drink by now. How dare you question my professional skills? This is preposterous!”

Alyssa

smiled and said nothing. She quietly observed how he lost his cool.

Then, it was as if Julien had an epiphany. He got up, leaned back, and squinted his eyes. He looked at her teasingly. “Phew, I almost fell for your trick, Ms. Alyssa. I must give it up to you. You have some tricks up your sleeves, but I am not a superficial man. I will not fall for your tricks.”

“Sigh, I thought you were a perceptive man, Dr. Lovelace. You may proudly say you don’t provide services for tycoons. Yet, you must know how reputable Mr. Beckett is among the big businesses in the country. He is a household name. He went from being the president of a big corporation to doing philanthropy

has helped with his charity fund. work. I’m sure you are no stranger to the dozens of people he

“Yet, you still choose to stand by your so-called principles. Don’t you think you’re being too pedantic and not keeping up with the times?”

Alyssa surprised herself with what she said. After being divorced for so long, she could still praise Jasper

Putting relationships aside, Jasper was excellent in management. If relationships weren’t the topic at

hand, he was practically perfect.

Otherwise, Alyssa wouldn’t have loved him for so many years without burning out. After all, a woman.

would never be able to turn away from a man she respected and was grateful for.

Alyssa had these feelings for Jasper, so she stayed ignorant for 13 years.

“Ms. Taylor, there is no point persuading me.”

Her persuasion moved Julien. Yet, he was stubborn.

“No matter what you say, I will not budge. The fact that your brother kidnapped and brought me back here had lost you any room to talk to me about this. You didn’t even have the decency to respect others

because of your money and power.

“I will buy my flight to head back. I will call the police if you try to stop me.

As Julien walked away, Alyssa sipped her tea gently. Then, she said lightly, “Sigh, I thought you were our only hope, Dr. Lovelace. Even Dr. White couldn’t help. Well, if that’s the case..”

“Who? Who did you say?” Julien aggressively stopped in his tracks. His face was riddled with shock.

“Dr. White.”

“Did you say Dr. White was attending to Jasper? What was that senior doctor doing?” Julien couldn’t help but sigh

“Senior doctor? Don’t insult her. Dr. White is nowhere close to being old.” The calm and collected Alyssa

was upset at his comment and slammed the table hard.

“I was being respectful. Dr. White is my idol.”

Julien’s face was filled with awe as he mentioned Dr. White. “I’ve not met the senior doctor, but she has

an elegant demeanor. Even her voice and smile are perfect to me.”

Alyssa was rendered speechless.

“Moreover, it would require any of us in the medical field three decades to reach the level of expertise Dr. White possesses and perform such high-profile surgeries. What’s wrong with simply referring to her as a

senior doctor?”

Chapter 835

Alyssa touched her chin. She didn’t think it was a problem.

Julien could never have imagined that the woman he despised, standing before him, was, in fact, Dr. White-the very culprit behind his “kidnapping” that had dragged his name through the mud.

Otherwise, he would rather hope the ground would open up and swallow him. He would rather die than

face this utter humiliation.

“Dr. Lovelace, do you still doubt this man’s character-a man Dr. White is willing to save?”

Alyssa nonchalantly asked with a smile, “Don’t you think you are questioning your idol’s character?”

She was guilt-tripping him. She had no choice but to use this method to deal with this conniving man.

Julien pursed his lips. He dragged a chair and slowly sat again as he wandered into deep thought.

“Okay, I will take a look for Dr. White’s sake.”

Alyssa was overjoyed. She curled her lips ever so lightly. “I thank you on behalf of Dr. White.”

It was rare for Axel to come back to the country, so he wasn't in a hurry to leave. Yet, he couldn't sit

around and do anything. So, like any other young man, he slept during the day and gallivanted at night.

Silas always teased him, “I know you are nocturnal. Anyone who didn't know this about you might think

you have an odd job or something.”

Axel asked Silas, Jonah, and Alyssa out for drinks. Yet, two of them declined his invitation. Silas couldn't

resist Axel's pestering and finally caved in.

Axel finally acted like a younger brother when he asked them out for drinks. However, he secretly took

hepatica and brought some medicine to help with hangovers. Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to take it.

They searched for a more secluded booth to keep a low profile when they reached the bar.

Yet, it was hard for them to keep a low profile with faces like theirs. It wasn't the dazzling lights in the

nightclub. They would make a dramatic presence even in the entertainment industry.

Women hit on them and asked for their numbers before they could warm their drinks.

Silas was exceptionally annoyed. Yet, Axel found this amusing and challenged Silas. They had a drink

once for each woman that hit on them. In the end, they ended up in a tie.

Eventually, Axel couldn't hold his liquor anymore. He said to the woman, "I have a girlfriend."

"Hmph, I don't believe you. If you had a girlfriend, you wouldn't come here with him for drinks. You're

obviously playing the field, handsome."

The woman flirtatiously leaned toward him. Unexpectedly, Axel nimbly avoided her. The woman

disheveled fell.

Then, he took his phone and waved Alyssa's picture in the woman's face. "Here, this is my wife. Isn't she

beautiful?"

Silas glanced at it and almost spit the liquor in his mouth.

"Pfft, whatever." The woman was jealous and walked off.

"Shit, Axel. You really are something. Using your sister and claiming her as your wife is overstepping a

moral boundary!" Silas heavily put down his glass and looked at him as he heaved.

“Why should I hide my beautiful sister away? I should put her on display for everyone to see.”

Axel downed his entire drink. Suddenly, his eyes darkened as he scoffed. “Unlike the bastard masked

behind a suit and tie. He has the world’s most beautiful wife. Yet, he didn’t let her meet people and snuck

around.”

“Are you talking about Jasper? Silas asked as he sipped on his drink.

Chapter 836

Axel retorted, “Otherwise, which other bastards would I be talking about?”

Axel then took a cigarette and placed it between his lips. Rage was evident on his face as he remarked,

I’m not sure what Lyse is thinking. She is divorced already. And that bastard’s name has been dragged

through the mud. Why is she wasting so much effort to attend to his medical condition? Let him rot and

die.”

“Just think of her as rescuing a stray dog, then. Don’t take this too personally, Silas comforted him.

“Huh? Do you think Julien will treat this bastard?”

“I think he might. Lyse always gets the job done.”

“Okay. I hardly get to come back. Now that I am here, I can’t leave empty-handed.”

Axel took a long drag of his cigarette. His eyes lit up with a blazing fire. He exhaled a ring of smoke. “Why

don’t I sneak into that bastard’s operating room and

He slid his hand across his neck as he spoke.

Caught off guard, Silas shuddered. Shocked, he said, “Don’t you dare act recklessly. If you touch even an

inch of Jasper’s hair, Solana City will rumble. Don’t make things difficult for Lyse or even Dad!”

“Haha, I’m just messing with you.”

Axel patted Silas on the shoulder and headed toward the crowded dance floor.

He had too much to drink tonight, so he had to sober up.

As he reached the sea of people on the dance floor, a wave of depression swept over him. The added discomfort of the smoke’s stench, a shared disdain with Alyssa, intensified his unease. Consequently, he

decided to step outside for some fresh air.

The mesmerizing lights, the enticing rhythm of the music, and the sight of attractive girls dancing flirtatiously collectively heightened the atmosphere on the dance floor.

With a cigarette in his mouth, Axel danced skin-to-skin with beautiful ladies he did not know.

He was good at dancing, but his dance moves were obscene. No one could tell him and a hooligan apart

if it weren't for his good looks.

Abruptly, Axel was captivated by a scent that sent his mind into a frenzy. Even with alcohol already coursing through his system, the fragrance left him bewildered and stunned.

A delicate woman fell into his embrace in the blink of an eye. He instinctively grabbed the woman's slim

waist, and their bodies melted together instantly.

That fragrance was to die for, and the woman felt soft.

Under the dazzling lights, Axel opened his eyes slightly and looked at the woman in his embrace.

What the heck?

It was as if lightning had struck him. The fingers caressing the woman's back turned instantly numb.

"L-Lyse?"

No, that didn't seem right.

She wasn't Alyssa. Alyssa didn't have a mole above her eyebrow. Plus, Alyssa never wore sweet-scented

perfume.

Suddenly, Axel's pupils constricted as his flashbacks of Mosgravia appeared in his mind. Then, he

shouted, “It’s you!”

It was the woman he met once when he was in a foreign country! This woman had been unforgettable.

“Hmm, do you know me, handsome? I don’t think I know you.”

Amber was drunk and blurry-eyed. She hooked her arms to the back of Axel’s neck. Her warm breath

landed on Adam's apple. “But I kind of dig the way you hit on me.”

Chapter 837

Axel’s eyelashes fluttered as his heart raced.

His heart rarely beats so fast. He was reacting to the woman who couldn’t keep her hands to herself.

He wasn’t moved emotionally.

The woman in his arms looked exactly like Alyssa. So it felt like he was caressing his sister. He didn’t

know what to do as his “sister” seduced him.

“Hmm... I-I’m about to puke.” Amber’s eyes welled up in tears. Her b*dy went limp.

She drank a lot and had too much to dance. Her stomach was churning madly. It was unbearable.”

Handsome, c-c-can you bring somewhere to puke? I can’t hold it in anymore.”

If it were another woman, Axel would have darted to the other side of the room-the further, the better.

He wouldn't want to get puked on.

However, he couldn't say no to that face of hers. He held Amber's soft waist up with one hand. He carried

her with his arm effortlessly and walked toward the restroom in large strides.

Everyone on the dance floor was dumbfounded.

*Shit! That handsome man is so strong! I wish I could feel how it's like to have him carry me."

"I couldn't believe such manliness exists!"

"But, don't you think the woman he carried away looks like someone? She looks like someone who was

the talk of the town online a few times. Who was it again? Ahh, doesn't she look like Alyssa Taylor?"

"It can't be Alyssa Taylor! When she came in earlier, I realized that was Alyssa's face!"

'Please, why would Ms. Taylor come to such a place? Plus, you would have seen a group of b*dyguards around her. Her dad is Winston Taylor, for crying out loud! That woman probably loved Alyssa's face so much that she used her as a reference for plastic surgery."

Axel couldn't enter the ladies' restroom, so he brought Amber to the men's restroom.

Regrettably, two elderly men occupied the restroom. A cold glint flashed in their eyes as they observed a formidable-looking man entering with a woman in his arms. The sight left them so shocked that they hesitated to proceed with their business.

“Are you done peeing? If you are, get lost,” Axel said as he kicked the door open.

Both men quickly pulled their pants up and scurried away. They forgot to close the door as they exited:

Amber held the sink with both her hands and started puking violently into it.

Axel leaned against the wall and placed a cigarette in his mouth. He glanced at her from the side of his

vision from time to time.

The more time he spent with her, the less she resembled his sister in his eyes.

Her sister, Alyssa, was a goddess. She was beautiful beyond measure. No other woman was as beautiful as her.

Amber concluded her bout of vomiting, splashed water on her face, and rinsed her mouth. As she stared

At her lifeless reflection in the mirror, she noticed her face had lost its color due to the heavy drinking.

The face she saw bore a striking resemblance to Alyssa’s. It was Jameson who had meticulously chosen this appearance for her.

A sharp pain pierced her heart, prompting her to gently rub her chest. She chuckled wryly, biting her lip in self-mockery.

“Are you done? Do you feel any better?”

Amber widened her eyes in shock and let out a scream. It was only then that she became aware of

someone standing beside her.

“What? I brought you here.”

Axel crossed his arms in front of his chest, teasingly gazing at her. “You sweet-talked me to bring you to

the restroom to puke and even called me handsome. Now, you’re acting like you don’t know me at all. I

i think you were using me, miss.”

“W-When did I ask you to bring me here? This is the women’s restroom. You should leave.” Amber was

still staggering, but she was vigilant.

She was more sober now and could think clearer. Then, she finally saw Axel’s sturdy b*dy, his handsome

looks, and dashing features.

He curled his trimmed eyebrow. The look in his eyes was teasing yet nonchalant. It was laid-back yet

spontaneous, as calm as the sea

Amber’s face suddenly warmed up. Her heart was beating faster.

Chapter 838

Amber was in utter disbelief. She never expected to feel such emotions for any man other than Jameson.

“The ladies’ restroom? Look at this urinal. Do you think this is the ladies’ restroom?”

Axel smiled. “I think you’re the one that needs to leave, miss.”

Amber’s face turned even redder. She lowered her head and thought of a quick escape plan. Axel, out of

her expectation, grabbed her wrist and pulled her back hard.

Once again, Amber slammed into the man’s sturdy chest hard. Her scalp tingles from the collision. Her

my heart was racing.

Axel looked at her, a deep glint in his eyes. His l*p curled slightly. It was teasingly charming. “How can you

leave? You didn’t even thank me yet.”

“T-Thank you.” Amber’s eyes flickered. Her breathing was growing erratic.

“Has anyone told you that you looked like someone?” Axel’s warm breath landed on the reddened tip of

her nose. His indifferent gaze became somewhat gentler.

Amber’s heart tightened. She tried her best to escape, but Axel held her tightly, so she couldn’t.

“No. I don’t look lik

“No, I don’t look like anyone. I’m just me.”

She was unsure why she felt timid and insecure. She felt like she was a terrible replica. Only Jameson

liked this face. Everyone else in this world liked the actual owner of this face-Alyssa Taylor.

“Then, tell me. Who are you?”

Axel’s eyes searched her eyes. “What is your name?”

“Am-

Her phone rang before she could finish her reply.

She hastily took her phone out and noticed her boss calling. Her face lost its color from the fear.

Axel’s brow twitched. The curiosity that had been growing in his heart went away instantly.

Amber dared not walk through the front door with her head held high. She scurried away in a hurry

through the back door.

A bright and piercing red light landed on her face when she walked out. She used her arm to block the piercing light. She couldn’t open her eyes.

At that moment, a b*dyguard walked toward her.

“Ms. Altman, the boss is waiting for you. Please hurry.”

“Okay.”

Amber was completely sober at this point. She walked toward the luxurious black car with heavy steps.

Her face was riddled with worry.

The man she had thought about day and night was in the car.

Despite being so close to the man of her dreams, her heart was filled with fear.

Amber opened the car door and cautiously entered.

The car door closed, and Jameson's voice echoed in the darkness, clear but tinged with a palpable anger.

“What have I told you? You are not supposed to come back to Solana City without my instructions. Have

you forgot everything so quickly?”

“S-Sorry, Mr. Schmidt. H... Hmm!”

The next second, everything turned pitch black for Amber. An unbearable pain throbbed in her neck, and

she found herself unable to breathe.

A cold glint reflected on Jameson's gold-rimmed glasses. He turned around, strangled Amber's neck, and

held her down in the car seat.

“Sorry? Is that it? Do you know how much trouble you have caused me with your recklessness?”

Chapter 839

“Sorry.” Amber’s face turned red, and her consciousness blurred.

i

“I told you, with this face of yours, even in Solana City, it should only appear at The Millennium at night! You’re my carefully crafted trump card, my possession.

“You do what I tell you to do, and you don’t have the qualifications to show off, let alone to be arrogant!”

Jameson’s eyes were full of malice. He increased the pressure of his grip on her neck as if he wanted to

strangle her to death.

Sitting in the passenger seat, Carl saw that Amber was about to collapse and hurriedly pleaded for her,

Mr. Schmidt, Ms. Altman can’t take it anymore! Please spare her this time for her loyalty and devotion to

you over the years!

“Although it’s her fault for violating your orders by sneaking back, isn’t it to see you? Everything she did.

was for you. Please spare her this time.”

Jameson coldly stared at Amber’s beautiful face and exhaled a breath before loosening his grip on her.

Amber was soaked in sweat at this moment, and her face changed from red to white. Panting heavily, she

tearfully stared at Jameson.

Even after being hurt like this, she had no resentment toward him and only blamed herself for making him

angry.

“Sorry... Mr. Schmidt... Sorry... Amber covered her neck in pain, continuously apologizing humbly.

Jameson took a snow-white handkerchief from his pocket and wiped his hands leisurely without looking

at her. Then he threw the handkerchief out of the window disdainfully.

“Take good care of this face when you go back. If it weren’t for it, I would have strangled you.”

In distress, Amber was trembling all over. “Thank you... Thank you, Mr. Schmidt.”

Suddenly, Jameson pushed his glasses and asked in a deep voice, “Did a man touch you in a bar?”

“No... I accidentally bumped into him. I drank too much and made a fool of myself.” Feeling nervous, she

quickly shifted all the blame to herself.

Jameson gave her a cold glance and said to Carl, “Find out who that man is, his identity, and his

background.”

“Yes, Mr. Schmidt.”

At that moment, a bodyguard walked toward her.

“Ms. Altman, the boss is waiting for you. Please hurry.”

“Okay.”

Amber was completely sober at this point. She walked toward the luxurious black car with heavy steps.

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held her down in the car seat.

“Sorry? Is that it? Do you know how much trouble you have caused me with your recklessness?”

Chapter 840

For a moment, Rose was both surprised and embarrassed. She tightly pressed her lips together, not

daring to make a sound.

One of the foreigners challenged Silas in Furancian. “Who are you? Get out of the way! This has nothing to do with you!”

“I didn't see this, then it has nothing to do with me. But since I did, I'll take things into my own hands,”

Silas replied in fluent Furancian with a sly smile.

“Damn! This guy's Furancian was surprisingly good!” Rose was secretly surprised.

What kind of creatures were Alyssa's brothers? Not only were they hot, but they were also so intelligent.

Moreover, Silas looked somewhat sexy, speaking Furancian. Rose couldn't help but blush.

“Who are you?” the other one said in Vitelian, his expression gradually becoming grim. “Get lost!”

“I'm your father,” Silas answered in Vitelian as well.

Suddenly, his face turned stern. “Don’t challenge my patience. Let her go!”

“Guards!” a man roared, and several men in black suits quickly ran over from the other end of the corridor.

It was evident that these two foreigners had some extraordinary status, accompanied by so many people

when they were out.

However, Silas wasn’t afraid. He raised his eyebrows and vigilantly scanned the surroundings.

Following his mother’s suggestion, Winston had hired professional combat teachers to teach his four

sons and Alyssa life-saving skills.

After all, no matter how many b*dyguards there were, they couldn’t protect them every second of every day. In critical situations, their self-defense skills could ensure their safety.

Silas hadn’t used his skills for a long time, and he had become a bit rusty. Dealing with these people

might not be a sure win.

“Silas... Forget about me!”

At this moment, Rose couldn’t care less about herself. She was unexpectedly concerned about Silas’

safety and shouted to him, “Leave! Quickly leave!”

“Even if I leave, I must take you with me!”

Silas clenched his fists and charged ruthlessly toward the two foreigners holding Rose.

At the same time, all the b*dyguards rushed forward.

“No!”

Seeing Silas instantly become the target of everyone, Rose was terrified. Her face turned pale, and her

heart felt like it was about to burst out of her chest.

Silas was nervous. Despite that, he clenched his fists more firmly, determined to rescue Rose from the

danger.

In his entire life, besides Alyssa, he had never risked his everything for any woman.

Silas moved swiftly and quickly. Before the two b*dyguards in front could react, he had already knocked down the two foreigners holding Rose to the ground with a punch each.

“Grab my hand! Quickly!” Sweating profusely, he stared at Rose and reached out to her.

“Silas! Behind you!” Rose exclaimed in shock.

She, a strong woman who almost never shed tears, was scared to the point of tears.

Behind Silas, a b*dyguard wielding an iron rod had appeared, and he swung it toward the back of Silas’

head.

If this blow landed, he would either die or suffer severe brain trauma.

If Alyssa lost a brother because of Rose, what could the latter use to compensate?
She would feel guilty

for a lifetime!

Upon thinking of this, Rose's

eyes t

red. She gritted her teeth and rushed forward to hug Silas' waist.

Surprised, Silas instinctively embraced her.

Chapter 841

Suddenly, a loud bang echoed.

A miserable scream came from behind as the b*dyguard, who attempted to harm
Silas, was hit in the

head by a trash can that had suddenly flown over. With that, he crashed heavily to
the ground.

This scene left everyone else dumbfounded. They actually withdrew their
aggressiveness, and none

dared to approach anymore.

“Silas! Why is your reaction so slow?”

Silas abruptly turned around to see Axel, hands casually in his trench coat pockets, shaking his head as

he walked toward them.

The trash can that this guy had kicked over just now had genuinely scared them.

Still gripping Silas’ suit jacket, Rose slowly opened her reddened eyes. As she raised her pale face, she

locked eyes with him.

“Are you....

you... okay?”

Silas lowered his eyes in response to her passionate gaze. Suddenly, his heart skipped a beat, then

pounded like a crazy drum.

‘I’m fine. Let’s get out of here.’”

“Get out? You punched our boss. None of you will get out of here!” The b*dyguards surrounded them.

again.

“Hey, hey.”

Axel casually swept a glance at them.

“Get it straight. These two foreigners molested my sister-in-law. We’re already letting them off easy by

just punching them. It wouldn’t be too much if we ripped their heads off and kicked them like a soccer

ball. Why are you guys still making a fuss?”

Sister-in-law?

Rose’s eyes widened. She shyly bit her crimson lips, and her cheeks blushed even more.

Likewise, Silas was taken aback, but he quickly had a second thought.

Setting aside the sister-in-law part, was Axel acknowledging him as his big brother?

He had hit the jackpot!

“Silas, leave with your lover. I’ll handle things here.” Axel’s eyes flashed with a hint of fierceness. He

twisted his neck and cracked his knuckles, ready to go all out.

These few days in Solana City, he had been so bored. This time, he finally caught onto his favorite

entertainment, so he was excited.

“Can you handle it?” Silas asked with skepticism.

“A man can’t say he can’t.”

Axel casually whistled, looking at Rose trembling in Silas's arms. "If you don't trust me, then stay. I'll leave

with her."

"Bye!"

Without any more words, Silas picked Rose up and ran.

"What the F***? You're discarding humanity for a woman! When I get back, I'm going to complain to

Jonah and Lyse!"

Axel pointed at Silas' departing figure and cursed loudly. Yet there was a smile on his face.

Silas hailed a cab outside the bar and carried the now weakened Rose inside.

"Can your friend handle them alone? Let's call the police. She grabbed his arm. Her thin red dress was

already soaked with sweat.

"He's not

my friend. He's my younger brother, Lyse's fourth brother."

Calmly, Silas took off his suit jacket and draped it over Rose.

"Don't worry. Those few pawns, even if there were ten more of them, wouldn't be a match for him. He ate

too much tonight. You can consider it his way of digesting.

“Madam’s... fourth brother?” Rose stared in shock. “No wonder... his eyes look somewhat like Madam’s,

but why do you and him look nothing alike?”

Chapter 842

“My mother’s first pregnancy was quadruplets, and I’m the second oldest. I resemble my eldest brother a

lot. Axel looks like my third brother. They both take after my mother.”

Normally, Silas would never discuss family matters with others.

However, for some reason, he wanted to satisfy her curiosity. It happened to be a way to divert her

attention. She was truly anxious and nervous earlier.

“Oh... so it seems Madam looks half like your mother and half like Mr. Taylor.”

Rose’s eyes sparkled with admiration. “Madam really has inherited the essence of both parents.”

Hearing that, Silas couldn’t help but smile. Suddenly, he noticed that Rose was very thin, even thinner than

Alyssa.

Her beautiful shoulders protruded, making her look like the perfect model for all clothes. However, there

there was no shortage in areas where there should be flesh.

For some reason, Silas felt a twinge of tenderness. He gradually tightened his grip on her shoulders.

“Who were those two men who bullied you? Why were you with them?”

At his question, Rose suddenly trembled. She leaned back, deliberately avoiding his concerned gaze.

“People I know in the business. I haven’t had much contact with them before, so I didn’t know they were

this type of person.

“Business? I heard from Lyse that you’re a fashion designer. Don’t you usually draw and use the sewing

machine in the studio? Is it necessary to mingle in such places?” Silas’s tone became impatient.

At his words, Rose raised an eyebrow coldly. “Oh, in your eyes, designers are just seamstresses, right? Do

we not need to promote our brand and expand our connections?”

“So, you drank with those two foreigners and got drunk? Didn’t you realize their dirty intentions?”

Silas became even more anxious. With red-rimmed eyes, he stared straight at her.

“How can you not have any awareness? Or are you just daring to do anything for the sake of your brand?”

“Yes. After all, I have no one to rely on. I can only rely on myself.” Rose felt indescribably uncomfortable,

so she turned her face away and did not look at him.

Noticing her nonchalant attitude, Silas was furious. He forcefully pressed her onto the car seat. “Rely on yourself? By drinking with men and laughing at their stupid jokes?”

“It’s none of your business.” Rose gritted her teeth, feeling a little heartbroken.

“Do you know what would have happened if I had been a bit late? Aren’t you afraid at all? Do you want me

to solve a case one day, and the victim turns out to be you?”

“I don’t want to know. Besides, you’re here now. Even if you hadn’t come, I would have found a way to get

a to

away.”

Biting at her lip, Rose lightly pressed her hands onto Silas’ chest and ruthlessly pushed him away. “Next

time you see me, remember to stay far away so you won’t be in trouble.”

“You... You’re simply unreasonable!” Silas was furious, staring at her with red eyes.

“Miss, you better listen. I’ve been working around this nightclub for over two years. I’ve seen many ladies who got drunk and were taken away,” the driver advised kindly, “Your boyfriend is also looking out for you.

A young lady like you shouldn’t be in a place like this.”

“It’s none of your business. Don’t talk,” both Silas and Rose said in unison.

“Alright, alright. Young couples quarrel, I know. I’ve been through this.”

The driver found a way out for himself and then asked. “Uh, since you’re done arguing, where do you want to go?”

T-

Before Rose could speak, Silas preemptively gave an address.

“Where are you taking me?” Rose asked.

“To my house.”

“Silas! This is absolutely outrageous! How can you take me to your house?” Rose blushed with embarrassment.

If it weren’t for him saving her, she would have wanted to punch him in the head.

*Those two men just now were quite powerful. Until Axel deals with them, I won’t let you go home alone.

You might be followed at any time and be in danger.”

Suddenly, Silas grabbed her wrist, holding it tightly like handcuffs. “No matter what, don’t think about leaving me tonight. I’m in charge of you now!”

Chapter 843

On the other hand, Axel had already taken care of the two foreigners, including the group of weak

b*dyguards.

He beat them up and locked them in the restroom of a private room, hanging a sign outside that said, “Do

Not Disturb”..

They were all too weak for him, not even enough to warm up.

Since Axel couldn't afford to create too much commotion, he quickly ended the fight. After all, he was in

Solana City and not abroad. He had to be cautious, given his status.

After leaving the nightclub, Axel received a call from Silas.

“It's all settled, Silas. You can relax and enjoy some alone time with your girlfriend. They won't bother you

again,” he said, yawning.

“She's not my girlfriend. Stop talking nonsense!” Silas sounded annoyed, with a hint of frustration.

“Tsk, tsk, do you think I'm dumb or blind? The guy who cares less about everything suddenly turns into a

hero tonight. The girl knows your name and even threw herself into your arms. You two are obviously

more than friends.”

Axel whistled. “What's there to be embarrassed about? Being in a relationship is not shameful. Do you

want to stay single until you're 40? Then you'll be called an old bachelor.”

“Axel, do me a favor.”

Silas took a deep breath. “Find out the backgrounds of those two foreigners who caused trouble for Rose

tonight. We didn't kill them. I'm afraid they might come after her again in a few days.”

na City.

“I thought of the same thing. I've checked, and they don't have much of a background in Solana

They're just high-level executives from foreign construction companies.”

“Construction companies?”

“Yeah. Your girlfriend has quite a wide range of connections.”

Axel smirked. “Tonight, I'll have some gossip to share with Lyse.”

“If you don't want to cause trouble for Lyse, don't mention a word about tonight's events to her.”

Silas' voice turned serious. “Rose is Lyse's best friend. If you tell Lyse, it will only make her worry, and she

won't be able to sleep well.”

Hearing that, Axel was shocked. “Wow! A close friend.”

“Close your foot! I'm hanging up!”

After that, Silas really hung up the phone.

Axel sneered and then pulled out a sophisticated, palm-sized, ultra-thin notebook computer from his pocket.

Such cutting-edge technology was a standard issue for high-level operatives like them, but it was nearly impossible to obtain domestically.

With this high-tech gadget, he could investigate many things.

So, Axel investigated the license plate number of the luxury car. Soon, he had an answer.

“A car under the Schmidt Group’s name? Interesting.”

When Axel looked at the investigation results, he recalled the face that resembled Alyssa’s. He narrowed his eyes slightly.

“Ms. Altman, who are you really working for? Josh? David? Or Jameson?”

Meanwhile, Silas forcefully brought Rose back to his house in Solana City.

Surprisingly, the second son of the Taylor family didn’t have his own villa in the city. He lived in a single-story house with simple decorations, which was quite unexpected for Rose.

“You can stay in this room.”

Silas brought Rose to the door of a spacious room. “There’s a bathroom inside, and my pajamas are in the

wardrobe. If you don’t mind, you can make do for one night.”

“Why are you so stubborn?” Rose sighed in frustration.

“Because you’re Lyse’s best friend. I can’t just leave you outside.

“Madam-

“Don’t worry. I won’t mention tonight’s events to Lyse. I don’t want her to worry any more than you do.”

Chapter 844

When Rose heard that, her tense heart finally eased a bit.

After years

of companionship, Alyssa was no longer just the mentor who brought her a glimmer of hope in

adversity. She was not only a friend but also a family. Rose didn’t want to make Alyssa worry or cause her

trouble.

Just then, Rose’s phone rang.

She glanced at the screen, and her eyes darkened. As she clenched the phone, her knuckles turned white.

Seeing her mood turn low, Silas tactfully exited the room and closed the door.

However, he lingered nearby, eavesdropping on the conversation.

He knew it wasn't the best thing to do, but for some reason, he felt a strong desire to care for her.

Besides, he could tell that, from the nightclub onward, Rose hadn't told him a single truth, no matter how

he asked. As a prosecutor for many years, he had developed sharp insight. So, her guarded thoughts were

transparent to him.

In the room, Rose hesitated for a while before reluctantly answering the call.

"Dad."

"What happened tonight?"

Rose's father, George Emerson, spoke through the phone. It lacked warmth and emotion and was filled

only with the usual questioning tone and anger.

"Something happened, so the drinking session ended early," Rose replied in a low voice.

"What thing? Don't you know what's important?"

At this moment, a sarcastic voice from a woman echoed from the other end. It was George's wife, Lydia

Carney.

“I told you so. How could she obediently help you? You’re lucky if she doesn’t squander everything you have.”

Rose tightly clenched her fists, her face turning as pale as a sheet.

There was one thing that nob*dy knew, not even Alyssa-Rose was the illegitimate daughter of George

Emerson, the chairman of the Emerson Group. However, her Identity had never been acknowledged by

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“Madam-”

“Don't worry, I won't mention tonight's events to Lyse. I don't want her to worry any more than you do.”

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Chapter 845

“I won't go back, and I won't meet with them tomorrow either! Do you know that I was almost-” Rose

choked down her sobs at this point.

There was a sudden silence on the other end.

After a while, there was a change in George's attitude. His tone softened, but his words were more cutting.

"Rose, I know you're in a difficult situation. But at the moment, our family is facing difficulties. As a

daughter of the Emerson family, sacrificing a bit for the family is reasonable, isn't it?

"Your sister is about to be engaged to the second son of the Dalton family in Northuis. She has sacrificed

a lot for our family, too."

Rose's eyes turned crimson instantly as she asked word by word. "Did you know that those two men had

evil intentions toward me from the beginning? Is that so?"

George remained silent.

"You knew everything and still let me meet them. Is this how you put your daughter in danger?" Rose cried

out in anger and frustration, tears streaming down her face.

Silas didn't catch all the words outside the door, but this sentence was crystal clear.

Combining it with the fragments he had heard earlier, he pieced together the whole story.

Instantly, his heart wrenched. He clenched his fists, and he was filled with anger.

What kind of devilish family was this? How could parents willingly let their daughters do such things?

No sound came from inside for a while.

Silas took a deep breath and lightly knocked on the door out of concern. But Rose didn't give him any

response. Worried, he pushed the door open.

“Rose?” His pupils suddenly contracted, and his whole b*dy shivered.

He saw the fragile Rose lying unconscious on the floor.

Silas rushed forward to check her condition, quickly realizing that she was experiencing cardiac arrest.

Fear spread through his being

“Hold on, Rose!”

He vigorously compressed her chest for CPR, but she showed no response.

“Rose... Rose...”

Silas watched as Rose's l*ps, like withering rose petals, gradually lost color and turned a faint shade of gray. Finally, he made up his mind, leaning in and k*ssing her deeply.

Their l*ps pressed tightly together as he continuously shared his breath with her. His heart raced in an

unusual rhythm. 1

After so

some time, Rose slowly opened her eyes. Subconsciously, she reached out her arms and hooked

them around Silas' neck.

Silas widened his eyes in surprise. He lost his balance and collapsed toward her.

She let a soft moan escape her lips.

Rose, with a misty and teary gaze, looked pitiful yet incredibly affectionate.

Inadvertently, she stirred something deep within Silas' heart.

Her lips, now restored to a rosy hue, unfolded like flower petals dampened by morning dew. Slowly, she

traced his lips with finesse and warmth.

At last, the tightly stretched line of Silas' rationality snapped silently

With red eyes, he firmly held the back of her head, his breath growing heavier.

His warm tongue gently pried open her parted lips, capturing her sweetness, which was accompanied by

a subtle hint of alcohol. It invaded his senses, reaching deep into his soul.

He didn't know how tonight had turned into this, but one thing was certain-he didn't want to part with her

lips and didn't want to stop.

Chapter 846

Rose's sudden cardiac arrest was no small matter. Silas took her to the hospital and notified Alyssa to

come and visit.

He knew his little clot

her brother.

little sister's temperament. Keeping this a secret any longer would lead her to disown him as

Early the next morning. Alyssa and Sean rushed back from Belbanks to the hospital where Rose was

hospitalized in Solana City.

"Silas, what happened? How could Rose have a heart attack?" Alyssa was in distress, tears swirling in her

eyes.

"The doctor said Rose has a weak constitution and a heart condition, but it's not too severe."

A heart condition?

Alyssa shivered, and Sean hurriedly supported her trembling figure.

She felt awful for Rose.

Not only was Rose her apprentice, but she was also her best friend. Yet she didn't even know about her

physical condition.

What a disappointment she was in her role as a mentor!

Recalling Rose and her family's phone call last night, Silas clenched his fists silently.

His voice was hoarse as he explained, 'She had a sudden emotional outburst, leading to a heart attack.

Luckily, I was there. Otherwise, the consequences could have been disastrous.'

After taking Rose to the hospital last night, he called Alyssa, briefly explaining how they had met.

However, he hadn't disclosed the conflict between Rose and her family.

"Emotional outburst? What happened?" Alyssa always liked to dig deep into the affairs of those around

her.

In her eyes, Rose was always carefree, not taking anything too seriously. Why would she-

"Lyse, let's wait for Rose to wake up and let her explain it to you herself."

When Silas recalled the prolonged k*ss, his cheeks involuntarily heated up, and his thoughts were

somewhat distracted.

"Mr. Silas, were you with Ms. Emerson all night? Did you take her to your place?" Sean couldn't help but

ask curiously.

At his words, Alyssa's gossip spirit was ignited,

After all, this was the first time Silas, who had been single for 30 years, brought a woman home.

Wasn't he always allergic to women?

"Yeah," Silas admitted it honestly. "Given the urgency of the situation last night, I was afraid she might

encountered more trouble, so I took her home."

"And then, and then, and then?"

Alyssa shook Silas's arm eagerly, asking, "What else did you guys do? Huh?"

"You're such a curious baby. Why so many questions?" Silas playfully flicked her forehead, but his heart

was unexpectedly beating fast.

He wasn't sure if Rose remembered the passionate k*ss last night.

When she woke up, should he or should he not-

At this moment, the door to the ward opened, and a nurse walked out.

"The patient has awakened."

Without a second thought, Alyssa rushed in, her worry evident.

Meanwhile, Sean stayed outside the room, watching Silas' face gradually redden. Puzzled, he asked, "Mr.

Silas, are you running a fever?"

"Huh?" Silas snapped out of his daze.

"Your face is really red. Are you sure you're okay?"

Silas' heart skipped a beat, and he chuckled nervously. "I'm fine. I'm fine."

Sean cleared his throat, silently smiling.

Chapter 847

In the ward, Rose weakly leaned against the bedside, hooked up to an IV. The morning sunlight spilled

onto her pallid face, creating a beauty that made others feel bad for her.

"Rose," Alyssa softly called her name, her eyes reddened.

For a moment, she couldn't believe that the frail woman before her was the same carefree and cheerful

apprentice she knew.

"Madam?" Stunned, Rose quickly pulled her needled hand under the blanket.

"What happened?"

Alyssa sat by the bed and gently held Rose's hand, asking with concern, "How did it come to this? Who bullied you?"

Rose bit her lip and remained silent.

“Tell me quickly. I’ll stand up for you.”

“I was just dizzy from low blood sugar. It’s nothing serious.”

“Even now, you won’t tell the truth? Do you not know you have a heart condition? How long do you plan on keeping it from me?”

Alyssa was so frustrated that her face was flushed, and she tightened her grip on Rose’s hand.

“Silas told me you received a call last night. After that call, you fainted due to an emotional outburst. Who

called you? What did they say? What happened at the nightclub last night?”

Alyssa’s questions were sharp, targeting sensitive points.

Rose’s long lashes trembled, and her fingers tightened in Alyssa’s palm. “Madam, I didn’t mean to keep it from you. But I hope you can give me some personal space and let me have a bit of my own secret.”

“No! No! No!”

Alyssa’s eyes turned red from anger. “What nonsense secret? You’re clearly being bullied, but you don’t want me to know and let me stand up for you.

“One of my life principles is ‘an eye for an eye. Anyone who harms those around me, I’ll get back at them

a thousandfold! Now that you’re in such a state, as your mentor, I can’t just stand idly by!”

“You can’t do anything about this!”

Rose's chest heaved suddenly. It was the first time she spoke to Alyssa with such intensity. "I'm begging

you. Just leave me alone, okay? I'm begging you!"

Alyssa looked stunned, and the light in her eyes slowly dimmed.

When she left the ward, her complexion was visibly grim.

However, she was naturally stubborn. The more Rose hid, the more she wanted to uncover everything. No

matter what, she had to stand up for her apprentice.

Alyssa had Sean stay to care for Rose and went to a café across the street from the hospital with Silas.

"Lyse, I think there's a problem with Rose's family. I don't know if she's mentioned it to you."

Silas lowered his gaze. He knew his little sister didn't like bitter coffee, so he placed a sugar cube in her

cup

"No, she only mentioned having a mother in her hometown who isn't in great health. Besides that, she's

never told me anything."

Alyssa took a deep breath. "She's my most trusted friend, so I never thought about investigating her."

"It's not investigated. It's understanding. Only through understanding

her.”

on you know her pain and truly I

As Silas spoke, he clicked on a document on his phone and handed it to Alyssa.
“Sorry, Lyse. I

investigated Rose without telling you. Don’t be mad at me.”

How could Alyssa be angry? She was even secretly pleased.

Sillas, who had always been focused on his cases and her matters, was now genuinely putting in effort for

Rose. It wasn’t easy for him to do this.

Did this mean Alyssa will have a sister-in-law soon?

“Rose is the daughter of George Emerson, the chairman of Emerson Group.”

“Emerson Group? I’ve heard of it. It’s not a big company, just a bit famous in Solana City, mainly in real

estate.”

Since Alyssa prepared to go back and inherit her family business, she clearly understood the people in the

domestic market, especially the bosses in Solana City.

“But if I remember correctly, George has a son and a daughter. They’re both quite high-profile, so I

remember them. How did Rose become his daughter?”

Chapter 848

Alyssa exclaimed, “What?”

Alyssa abruptly stood up from her chair, staring at Silas in disbelief. “Illegitimate daughter? The Emerson

family’s illegitimate daughter?

“So it’s understandable that she hid her background from you.”

Looking at Rose’s background check, Silas felt uneasy for some reason.

Compared to those who openly expressed their sadness and misfortune, he felt more sympathetic

toward Rose, who kept everything inside.

“Rose is such a fool.” Alyssa felt as though her heart was cut with a knife, making it hard for her to

breathe.

“The two foreign men Rose drank with last night are high-level executives from a foreign construction

company. They’re involved in business dealings with the Emerson family.

“Considering Rose’s conversation with her father last night, it seems like the Emerson family arranged

everything.”

“This is outrageous! Did they actually make their own daughter drink with clients for business? George,

that heartless scum, is he out of his mind?”

Alyssa slammed the table, making coffee splash everywhere. At the same time, her eyes revealed a

murderous intent.

“Silas, I’ll handle this matter. Promise me one thing. Take good care of Rose these days until she recovers.

Silas hesitated for a moment, not answering immediately.

“Can you do that?” Alyssa glared at him.

“Okay. I can’t say no, can I? Of course I can,” Silas agreed repeatedly.

“What? Now that you know Rose is an illegitimate daughter, do you look down on her?”

“Are you scolding me? Am I such a shallow person?” Silas blushed, a bit flustered.

At this moment, Jonah called Alyssa.

“Lyse, Jasper will attend a business cocktail party tonight. You can meet him there.”

“Got it,” Alyssa replied casually.

“Lyse, you can actually arrange a private meeting with him.”

After a pause, Jonah spoke earnestly, “Even if you can’t be husband and wife, or even friends, you don’t

have to avoid each other forever.”

“Just a meeting during the reception is enough. I don’t want to meet him privately.”

Alyssa didn’t know why, but she was quite afraid to see Jasper. She lowered her voice and said, “Jonah, I

actually want to let Julien meet Jasper.

“If possible, move up the treatment schedule. Once he fully recovers, we can cut off all ties completely.”

When Silas returned to the ward, Rose was standing by the window, talking on the phone with her back to

him.

“I’ve done enough for the Emerson family over the years. What more do you want from me? Do you want me to sell my blood or my b*dy?”

Rose forcefully suppressed the trembling anger in her voice. Beads of sweat were dripping down her face.

Suddenly, her palm was empty.

Silas took advantage of her distraction and pulled out her phone, pressing it to his ear.

Rose raised her tear-stained face in astonishment, looking at his profile. His handsome features and firm righteousness inexplicably gave her an unprecedented sense of security.

“Hello.” Silas’ gaze was cold.

“Who... Who are you?” George asked in surprise.

I

“With your status, you’re not even worthy to know who I am.”

Silas sneered. “But let me remind you of one thing. What you’re doing now has crossed legal boundaries and violated a woman’s will. I can sue you at any time.”

“Sue me? Haha! Who do you think you are? Do you know who I am?” George was both angry and amused.

He thought this was some inexperienced youngster or Rose’s boyfriend who got upset and tried to stand up for her. So, he didn’t take Silas seriously.

Chapter 849

George would probably have regretted it if he had known that he was talking to Winston’s second son, Alyssa’s second brother. He might even wish he were dead.

“You don’t need to talk so arrogantly here. If you dare to have any ideas about Rose again, you’ll see me

deal with you.” Silas tilted his jaw slightly, smirking coldly.

In terms of arrogance, who could be more arrogant than someone from the Taylor family?

“You-“George was furious. He roared, “Who the hell are you?”

Silas swallowed and somehow had the courage to put his hand around Rose’s slender shoulder, pulling

her into his arms.

Caught off guard, Rose didn't dare to move, and her heart was in turmoil.

"I'm Rose's boyfriend."

After saying that, Silas directly hung up the phone, not giving George a chance to retort.

The ward suddenly became very quiet.

Both Silas and Rose remained silent.

"Uh, don't get me wrong. I was caught up in the moment just now." Silas quickly tried to cover for his

unintentional words.

"I didn't misunderstand. And no matter how I see it, I'm the one who gained."

Rose self-deprecatingly

smiled.

She knew that Silas was standing up for her because of Alyssa.

She hadn't become so arrogant to think that the second son of the Taylor family would really care about

her.

She wasn't delusional. Besides, her identity as the illegitimate daughter of the Emerson family was no longer a secret. Such a prestigious family as the Taylor family would never be interested in the Emerson family, let alone someone like her, an illegitimate daughter who couldn't be brought out in public.

Silas licked his dry lips, looking at her deeply. After hesitating for a while, he asked in a low voice. "Last

night...we..."

"Thank you for last night. If it weren't for you saving me in time, I would probably be dead by now." Rosel

sincerely thanked him.

"No, I mean... we ... um.. Do you not remember at all?" Silas asked tentatively, feeling a bit anxious inside.

"What?" Rose looked at him with confusion.

At her response, he was at a loss for words.

It seemed she really didn't remember.

He suddenly felt that he was being taken advantage of

"Uh... Can you let go of me?" Rose gently pressed her lips together, feeling a bit embarrassed in his arms.

Silas' heart was pounding, and he quickly released his hold on her

Rose covered her chest and walked back to the bedside to sit down.

As he watched her slender figure, his heart tightened. He walked up to her and asked softly, "Do you want to eat something?"

"I want a mac and cheese cup." Rose raised her eyes, meeting his eyes.

When she was in a bad mood, she always liked to comfort herself with a hot cup of mac and cheese.

"Okay, I'll make it for you."

Silas rolled up his sleeves, thinking that this girl was easy to please. She was
mac and cheese.

satisfied with jus

a cup of

“And... add a poached egg.” Rose grabbed his hand and added a small request.

Silas smiled tenderly at her. “Sure, I’ll add two for you.”

Chapter 850

At exactly 7:00 pm, after the business conference, all the big shots and elite figures
of Solana City rushed

to the Berenike Hotel to attend the cocktail party.

Alyssa sped in her black Bugatti, with Julien tightly gripping the door handle on
the passenger side. He stared straight ahead, not daring to say a word throughout
the journey.

He was afraid that saying too much would make him throw up last night’s dinner.

Finally, when they arrived at the hotel, Alyssa executed a beautiful and precise
drift, smoothly parking in

the designated spot.

“Get out.” Alyssa unbuckled her seatbelt

Julien didn’t move. His face was as pale as paper.

Noticing no response from him, Alyssa blinked and waved her hand in front of him. “Hey, what’s wrong?”

Petrified?”

“I... want... to... vomit.” Julien’s face turned purple, and he was not doing well at all. 1

Alyssa yelled, directly kicking him out of the car. “If you need to vomit, do it outside, not in my car!”

The moment the car door opened, Julien started throwing up.

Even though he was a son from a scholarly family, this was the first time he had been so lacking in

manners and vomited so unceremoniously.

Fortunately, Jonah wasn’t present. Otherwise, he might have given up on life.

After Julien finished vomiting, he weakly leaned against the car door. Panting, he glared at Alyssa. “You

The Taylors are all insane! Do you think the car is an airplane?”

“You’re quite a big man, yet you’re carsick

Alyssa folded her arms, shaking her head. “My driving skills are at a racing level. It’s very stable. If you can’t adapt, that’s definitely your problem.”

Saying that, she handed him a bottle of water, showing a bit of consideration.

Julien rinsed his mouth with water. It took him quite a while to recover.

“Hey, don’t forget what you promised me.

“I won’t.”

“No, I mean... we.. um... Do you not remember at all?” Silas asked tentatively, feeling a bit anxious inside.

“What?” Rose looked at him with confusion.

At her response, he was at a loss for words.

It seemed she really didn’t remember.

He suddenly felt that he was being taken advantage of.

“Uh... Can you let go of me?” Rose gently pressed her lips together, feeling a bit embarrassed in his arms.

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“I want a mac and cheese cup.” Rose raised her eyes, meeting his eyes.

When she was in a bad mood, she always liked to comfort herself with a hot cup of mac and cheese.

“Okay, I’ll make it for you.

Silas rolled up his sleeves, thinking that this girl was easy to please. She was satisfied with just a cup of mac and cheese.

“And ... add a poached egg.” Rose grabbed his hand and added a small request,

Silas smiled tenderly at her. “Sure, I’ll add two for you.”