

CAN'T WIN ME BACK

Chapter 1981



Landon's pupils constricted. All of a sudden, his vision started to blur. "She's dead?"

"Yes. She died a horrific death. They almost couldn't identify her when her body was discovered."

Jordan knitted his brows together tightly. Then, he continued in a low voice, "When the authorities performed an autopsy on her, they discovered that she had been sexually assaulted. She had severe STDs festering in her lower body."

Landon shut his reddened eyes. He tightened his grip on the water basin, and his hands trembled slightly. "Who was she assaulted by?"

"Many."

Jordan hesitated before continuing, "Not long after arriving at Tsulu, Zoe was sent to an underground club. That place is actually a high-end brothel. The women there provide sex services specifically to the big shots at Tsulu. "I heard that all the women there end up in the same way. They would all be completely fucked up. Even if Zoe wasn't murdered, that's just how things would have ended up for her."

Landon lowered his eyes.

Deep down, he was disturbed by a plethora of intense and bitter emotions. He couldn't utter a single word.

There was no doubt that he hated Zoe.

When he sent her off on that stowaway boat to leave her to fend for herself in a foreign land, his heart was burning with hatred.

Though, to his surprise, he couldn't find it in himself to hate her once he found out about her tragic death. It was as if someone had ripped a hole through him.

His love and hate for her for over two decades had just disappeared through a deep abyss, never to be found again.

"Pardon me for saying this, Mr. Landon. I think that it's completely unnecessary for you to feel sad for her even though she was your biological sister."

Jordan's gaze was frigid. There was a look of deep hatred in his eyes.

"Madam wouldn't have ended up like this if it wasn't for her. Ms. Angie and the entire Harper Group wouldn't have ended this way either. An eye for an eye. She deserved it."

"Go to Tsulu tonight and bring Zoe's ashes back." Landon's eyes were dark as he spoke. "Then, investigate what she experienced during her time in Tsulu."

"Mr. Landon!"

"I'm not saying this to seek revenge for Zoe, Jordan. The past is the past. She's already dead. All the hate is now ashes to ashes; dust to dust."

Landon held back the surging emotions within him. His eyes were clear. "I have heard about the underground club at Tsulu. The person who was able to send Zoe there is surely someone who understands Harper Group. That person took action against Zoe in secret. There are only two possibilities-they wanted to release their anger or to silence her."

Jordan gaped in sudden realization.

"If that person schemed anything with Zoe in the past, it's all over now. That said, I cannot let my guard down. I cannot let him do anything against Harper Group again."

Jordan gave a firm nod in response. "I understand!"

Just as both Landon and Jordan came to a mutual understanding, they spotted the Becketts walking toward them.

"Landon!" Newton called out as he waved. He had a kind smile on his face. Landon handed the basin to Jordan. Frantically, he wiped his wet hands on his pants and went up to Newton.

"Hi, Grandpa Newton and Mr. Javier," he greeted them politely.

"Look at this polite young man. Even though he's seated highly as Harper Group's chairman, he still humbles himself. You don't see people like this every day." Newton beamed.

Javier used to see Landon as a useless playboy. After all the hardships they had been through, he was starting to grow fond of him.

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Newton, Javier, and Landon walked into the hospital ward to see Lauren, to She was lying in bed with her eyes closed. Her eyes fluttered open slowly when she heard noises in her room. Visit to read the latest chapter of this novel

"Ahh..."

"Lauren, my dear... I'm here to see you."

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Newton sat by her bed. He picked up her hand and caressed her palm, m Even though his eyes were glistening with tears, he tried his best to put a smile on his face. Visit

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He chuckled, "I see that you've gotten plumper. It seems like Landon has been taking good care of you. Youn have to make sure she eats well, Landon. Or, even better still, make her as plump as a little piglet!" "Dad, no woman would want to be as fat as a pig!" Javier protested. Visit to read the latest chapter of this novel

He then blurted, "Moreover, she wouldn't look good in her wedding dress like

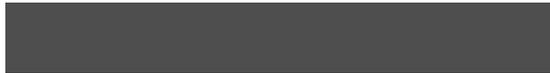
that."

Landon stayed put with a reserved posture. His body stiffened up, and his heart started pounding.

"Ah... Ahh..." Lauren's pale cheeks blushed pink.

She propped herself up. As Landon approached her to help her up, she leaned her flushed cheeks against his chest.

Chapter 1982



Newton clicked his tongue. "Look at Javier. He's such a blabbermouth. He can't even keep his thoughts to himself."

Newton decided to be frank with Landon. He grinned, "Truth be told, Landon, Javier and I are here to officially propose your marriage to Lauren."

"Grandpa Newton..."

Landon's breathing became heavier as he became overly emotional. He stuttered, "Grandpa Newton... I..."

All of a sudden, he burst into tears. Tears of joy streamed down his face like a waterfall.

Lauren mustered up all her strength to give Landon a tight hug with her frail body. She lifted her reddened face to look at him as drops of his tears fell onto her face. Although she could not speak, her gaze was full of tenderness and happiness. The look in her eyes gave him great comfort.

"You don't have to say anything, Lauren. I get you."

Tears welled up in Newton's eyes. He put Lauren's and Landon's hands together. "I am getting old, and so will Javier. You are the only one who can journey with Lauren till the end. You are the only one who can love and pamper her for the rest of her life."

"All that awaits the both of you in the future will only be happy days."

"Grandpa Newton, Mr. Javier... I will surely make Lauren happy." Landon intertwined his fingers with Lauren's as he uttered this significant promise.

"Ah..." Lauren knelt on the bed as she lifted her hand to wipe away his tears gently.

"Mr. Javier'? Isn't it about time for you to address me differently?"

Upon saying that, Javier himself ended up feeling embarrassed. He coughed awkwardly.

"Well, we can wait till after the both of you register your marriage and have your wedding before..."

"Dad!" Landon's voice was crisp and urgent.

Javier was taken aback. His heart skipped a beat, and he didn't know how to respond at that moment.

Newton clicked his tongue. "Look at you. He's talking to you. Didn't you hear him?" Newton gave him a nudge.

Javier came back to his senses. He took a deep breath and let out a smile of relief. "Landon."

Lauren's birthday was early next month.

Landon decided to register his marriage with Lauren on that day. Initially, he wanted to organize a grand and romantic proposal. However, Lauren saw through him and objected to the idea. She even refused to have a wedding ceremony.

She had severe social anxiety. In the past, she was able to open up little by little because she had Angelina by her side.

However, Angelina was no longer around.

Thus, she had retreated back to her little corner. Other than meeting her own family, any other human contact would make her fearful and restless.

With consideration of Lauren's mental state, a wedding of the century was most likely not going to happen.

Landon desired to give Lauren the whole world. Undoubtedly, this was an immense letdown to him.

That night, Landon called Alyssa and Jasper to share his sorrows.

"Formalities are really not that important for the both of you."

Alyssa was seated at her vanity table. She narrowed her eyes as she enjoyed Jaspers hair-brushing service.

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She placed her phone on the table and put it on loudspeaker. "You and Lauren have been to hell and back. The entire world is witness to your love.

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"No grand wedding could ever beat that. More importantly, you have to make Lauren feel comfortable. You don't have to care about what other people think or any of those superficial things." Jasper was

distracted by the mention of a

wedding. His heart wrenched. Visit

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How could he stand here so shamelessly and give Landon ideas? He himself owed Alyssa a wedding of the century.

Even if he lay down his life for her, he could never make up for all that he had owed her.

"Argh... Gentle... Be more gentle..." Alyssa grunted softly. Jasper had brushed her hair too hard unintentionally.

"Sorry. Did I hurt you?" Jasper's mind was elsewhere, and his breathing was heavy.

"Mm... It's been a little dry recently. I'll try applying some moisturizer."

"Okay," Alyssa answered in a soft voice.

"That's enough, both of you... Are you mocking me for having to be abstinent

while Lauren is unwell?"

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On the other end of the phone,
Landon's voice sounded tense. His
m

fingers went numb "You may be relishing in a happy time as husband and wife. But shouldn't you also consider the feelings of a normal man like me?" Visit to read the latest chapter of this novel

Chapter 1983



Alyssa burst out laughing. "I can tell that you've really been trying to curb your urges, Mr. Landon. Jasper is just brushing my hair. I can't believe that your mind wandered elsewhere."

Alyssa stroked her soft hair, which Jasper had helped with maintaining.

"Landon, you don't have to rush the wedding. Just have your marriage with Lauren registered first. It's more important to make the relationship between the both of you as husband and wife official."

Upon hearing that, Jasper was suddenly filled with regret. He observed the expression on Alyssa's face.

Fortunately, she wasn't bothered at all. With a smile on her face, she was engaging in her skincare routine. Her face looked moist, drawing him closer and closer.

"Don't worry. I will definitely be getting that marriage certificate." Landon's voice was full of affection. "In the future, Lauren will be the wife of Harper Group's chairman."

"In the future, Javier will be your father-in-law. You will be able to strut throughout Solana City," Alyssa teased him in a relaxed tone.

"I will not rely on Beckett Group's resources. I will rely on myself to look after Lauren and run Harper Group."

"All you have to do is holler if you need help. Don't try to bear all the burden on your shoulders." Jasper's eyes became deep. "Never ever forget that we are here for you."

Alyssa sat in deep thought for a while. All of a sudden, her eyes lit up. "Since Lauren doesn't want to have a grand wedding, let's organize a simple ceremony -one that is warm and only attended by family members. What do you think?"

"I remember seeing northern lights in Lauren's painting. She also told me she'd love to see the northern lights. We can have the wedding at Bernadia. I heard it is one of the countries where the aurora is most beautiful. "It can be a family-only wedding ceremony. That way, Lauren doesn't have to be troubled by her social anxiety. You can both also spend your honeymoon there right away. It's killing two birds with one stone!" "The northern lights..." Landon's heart dropped.

He was deeply in love with Lauren. Yet, he had only just found out that she liked the northern lights.

Affectionate love wasn't enough. As a soon-to-be husband, he still had lots to learn. There was much for him to work on in the future.

"I know that it has been quite a trying time recently. Your main job is to manage Harper Group well. You've had to appease the shareholders, stabilize share prices, and prevent conspirers from going through loopholes." Alyssa lifted her eyes and gazed at Jasper tenderly. She held his hand in hers.

"Jasper and I will do all we can to help you with your wedding."

"Thanks for being concerned for Lauren and me, Lyse. When is your wedding with Jasper happening?" Landon asked in a concerned voice.

At this point, Jasper and Alyssa's relationship was as solid as a rock. They did not deem it necessary to have a marriage certificate to prove their love for one

another.

However, as a best friend who watched them go through such an arduous journey, Landon sincerely hoped that they would make their relationship as a married couple official. He wanted to see them make up for the things that they had missed out in the past.

At the end of it all, he wanted his best friend to be given an official status! Even if Alyssa were to abandon him in the far future, whether due to his age or her wanting to find someone younger, Jasper would still be her official husband, his position wouldn't be swayed easily.

He was just planning ahead!

Jasper gulped. He tightened his grip on the brush.

"We'll marry Lauren off first. There's no rush with the matters between Jasper and me."

After the call with Landon ended, Alyssa realized that Jasper had not made a single sound behind her.

She crossed her legs and tapped her foot in the air. Her pink, soft slipper dangled from the tips of her toes.

There was a gleam in her eyes. She squinted and asked, "Why did you stop, Jasper? What are you thinking about?"

"I was thinking about why your hair is so silky." Jasper picked up Alyssa's hair with his hand and brushed it absent-mindedly.

His voice was raspy and low. He did not even realize how alluring the restraint in his voice was.

Alyssa clicked her tongue. "You're lying, Jasper."

She kicked him lightly on the leg of his pants. She smiled. "Did you hear what Landon said earlier?"

"I did."

"Don't you want to make it official for yourself?" Through his white shirt, Alyssa gave him a poke on his firm abs.

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At that moment, Jasper's heart was like a headless chicken that was m being chased by a hunter. His heartbeat was fast, rushed, and chaotic. Visit to read the latest chapter of this novel

After a moment, he spoke up in a hoarse voice, "I do..."

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"Hm? What did you say? I couldn't hear you." Alyssa turned her headm slightly and put her hand behind her

ear. She blinked at him. Visit to read the latest chapter of this novel

"I do, Lyse. I do."

At the same time, a loud crack sounded.

In his nervousness, he actually broke the brush in two!

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Alyssa was stunned. Jasper then got down on one knee in front other. He lifted his sculpted face and looked at her with his sharp eyes. Visit to read the latest chapter of this novel

He said, "Please make it official with me, Ms. Alyssa."

The look in Alyssa's eyes became deep. She showed no change in her expression.

She maintained her cool even in front of Jasper.

He panicked. His Adam's apple bobbed. Then, he added, "I don't mind even if you prefer polyandry."

Chapter 1984



If Landon were to hear what Jasper just said, he would probably laugh at him.

"Good-for-nothing!"

"Useless president!"

"Polyandry?"

Alyssa narrowed her eyes at him. She tickled him on his chin with her fingers and tilted his chin up. "Would you be happy with that, Mr. Jasper?"

"No, I won't."

Jasper looked her in the eyes with his fiery gaze. He then gulped. The bob in his Adam's apple was exceptionally sexy. "But I know that I don't deserve it." If he didn't deserve it, who did?

That said, The Taylors always maintained a level of conservativeness.

Although Alyssa's heart was racing, she uttered in a neutral tone, "Also, what are you doing? Is this a proposal?"

Jasper pursed his lips and didn't reply.

"Others would usually have a romantic proposal and an expensive ring. I've never seen anyone hold a brush and a broken one at that." Alyssa put her hand on her hip, making herself look as if she was mad at him. Jasper clenched his hands into fists. The brush's bristles dug into his palm.

He recalled the time when Alyssa married him in the past. There was no proposal and no wedding ceremony. All she had with her was her luggage when she moved into Seaview Manor quietly. Even the three-carat wedding ring was just a tool for formality's sake. He didn't put any heart into choosing that ring. Yet, she wore it every day and treated it like a treasure.

He was indebted to her. Time and time again, he was covered by all the debt he owed her.

It was his dream to marry her. However, till today, he couldn't bring himself to say those few words openly-"Alyssa, marry me."

Right at this moment, Alyssa's phone buzzed.

The secret group chat hadn't pinged in quite a long while. Surprisingly, the

quietest member, Jonah, broke the silence.

Jonah: "Lyse, I heard that Landon is getting married. Feel free to let us know if there's anything that we can help with."

Alyssa smiled. She typed her reply speedily.

"Looking for three groomsmen. Limited spots available! One chance only!"

Silas: "Why three? Shouldn't it be four? There are exactly four of us. We can fill up four spots."

Axel: "Are you dumb, Silas? That spot is obviously allocated for Jasper. Fill up? I'd like to see if you can fill up four spots yourself."

Silas: "Oh, right, right... I forgot about Jasper. But wait, who are you calling dumb?"

Axel: "Are there any games or trivia for the groomsmen during the wedding, Lyse? With Silas' brain, he'd better not be a groomsman."

Silas: "Just wait and see... Damn it!"

Axel then sent a GIF of a dog sitting on a cat and wagging its tail. It really annoyed him.

Alyssa noticed that Liam hadn't said anything. She tagged him and asked, "Liam, can you attend the wedding?"

Liam: "Of course. I can help out if any help is needed. It's just that I'm not that close with Landon. About being one of his groomsmen, it's a bit..."

Liam held a high position in the military. He also had a huge responsibility on his shoulders. His every move was being watched by countless people in secret.

He also barely had any interaction with Landon. Even with Jasper, they had very minimal interaction.

It was indeed too demanding to have him be a groomsman.

Jonah: "Don't forget Julien, Lyse."

Silas: "That's right! Your lover! Fortunately, he's a man. Otherwise, we wouldn't have enough people."

Jonah: "They would probably need a priest if they are having a traditional wedding, right? I can't be a groomsman if I were to be the officiant."

Alyssa bit her lip and thought about it. She then added Cyrus to the group.

"Cyrus, urgent help is needed! Can you be a groomsman?"

Jasper saw that Alyssa was engrossed in her chat with her brothers. So, he excused himself and left the room. He went downstairs to cut some fruit for her. At the same time, he made a call.

In the kitchen, he plated the fruits skillfully while he spoke on the phone with Xavier.

"Keep an eye on upcoming famous auctions within the country and overseas. Remember to inform me if there are any high-end diamonds."

"Wow! Mr. Jasper, are you being influenced by Mr. Landon? Are you planning to propose formally to Madam?" Xavier cheered from the other end of the call.

"Maybe, if there's a suitable timing. Just making some preparations first."

Jasper lowered his eyes. His heart was filled with an array of conflicted emotions. He was worried but also filled with anticipation. "Ho, ho... You're finally getting it right!"

Xavier was about to burst into happy tears. "I'm so happy to know that I will be able to see you get married again. I can rest in peace even if I were to die tomorrow!"

Jasper was speechless.

He was marrying his first wife again, not getting remarried to someone else!

"Oh, right. You asked me to investigate The Ivory Gang, right? It took me much effort to finally find out some things."

Jasper froze. "Go on."

"Multiple gang members are involved with drugs. The police already have them

on their watch."

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"Marc despises drugs. His subordinates never involved themselves with drugs throughout these decades. Those who did would only end up dead. Yet, Some people took that risk?" Jasper lowered his darkened eyes. "It's a different era now. Mr. Marc has advanced in age. There have been multiple internal strifes in the recent two years. It is said that the gang would be in a worse condition if it weren't for Mr. Nathan holding everything together. Visit to read the latest chapter of this novel Visit to read full content.

"Their underlings have started to become disloyal. They tried to accumulate wealth behind Mr. Marc's back however they could. Ultimately, they would seize power or start their own gang. This is the fate of those who dwell in the underworld." Visit to read the latest chapter of this novel Visit to read full content.

Jasper was a successful businessman who came from a wealthy family. His and Marc's positions were like apples and oranges. In actual fact, he didn't have to bother about the things going on within The Ivory Gang. Despite that, Marc was Colene's father, while Colene was Alyssa's precious family member. Visit to read the latest chapter of this novel

Inevitably, he paid more attention to them.

Moreover, there was also the death of The Ivory Gang member who died a tragic death on the street. He kept getting the feeling that there was something more behind his death.

"No matter which drug, the symptoms of addiction are pretty much the same.

But

did the man we saw last time really die from an overdose?"

Jasper's eyes were deep. He frowned. "Why did it look more like he was ill or poisoned?"

Xavier gasped. "It was strange indeed!"

Jasper gave it some thought. Out of the blue, he asked in a deep voice, "Where can I buy it?"

Xavier was stunned. "What do you mean?"

"The drug. Find a way to buy me some."

Chapter 1985



Early November saw the first romantic snowfall of the year at Solana City.

It was also Lauren's 24th birthday.

Early in the morning, Alyssa led her "team of stylists" to the hospital with great joy. She prepared to give Lauren a glow-up.

Though, rather than a team, it was her and two other people-Rose and Tatiana.

But they were more than capable. Rose's styling and Tatiana's makeup skills were comparable to celebrities' team of stylists.

The trio entered the hospital room with much hustle and bustle. To their surprise, Landon had dark circles under his eyes. He was sitting by the side of the bed and feeding Lauren some chowder. Lauren smiled widely when she saw Alyssa. She couldn't say anything, so she waved at them as her warm gesture of welcome.

Lauren's sunken face was now plumper thanks to Landon's care over the past two months. The paleness on her face was also replaced by rosiness on her cheeks. She looked even sweeter than before. Love was indeed the best medicine.

Tatiana also felt that she wasn't needed today. Lauren was just like her sister. They were natural beauties who didn't need any makeup.

"Hang on a moment, Lyse. Let me feed Lauren first." Landon smiled bashfully. Alyssa waved her hand. "No rush at all. Take your time. We have plenty of time." Landon carried the delicate bowl and scooped the topmost layer with the spoon. He would then blow on it in case it burnt her tongue.

For her second bite, he put some vegetables on the spoon before feeding it to her. He feared the chowder would be too bland and not suit her palate.

Landon took such great care of Lauren. Alyssa, Tatiana, and Rose were satisfied to see them being so lovey-dovey in front of them.

Fortunately, the three of them had already found their own happiness.

Otherwise, they would have felt envious watching the scene in front of them!

Rose wiggled her nose and sniffed. "Wow... It smells good. What is it?"

"Fish chowder?" Alyssa's nose was sharper. She figured out what the dish was just by its smell.

"Oh! That's my favorite!" Tatiana blinked. Her appetite was being whetted.

Landon gave Lauren another scoop. "I made quite a lot. There's more in the thermal flask. Help yourselves if you're hungry.

"You made it yourself?" The trio were shocked.

Right at this moment, Jordan walked in with the custom suit that Landon was meant to change into. He was over the moon.

"Mr. Landon went to the market yesterday afternoon to pick out the best and freshest live fish. He took great care of it for a day before slaughtering it this morning for Madam's fish chowder. These side dishes were also prepared by Mr. Landon.

"You have no idea, Ms. Alyssa. Mr. Landon's fish slaughtering skill is even better than a fishmonger's! He's swift!"

Landon shot Jordan a cold look. Although he shut himself up immediately, he still had a face full of admiration.

"You made all of these yourself?"

Alyssa widened her eyes in disbelief. "Oh my, what time did you have to get out of bed?"

"Just a little earlier than usual. It wasn't my first time making these." The look in Landon's eyes became gentler. He used a tissue and wiped Lauren's mouth gently.

Rose and Tatiana were flabbergasted.

They had both met Landon more than once before. But they couldn't believe that the caring man in front of them was the same person who used to be infamously untamed in Solana City. He had changed. His gaze, mannerisms, and bearing had completely changed.

The only thing that remained unchanged was his unwavering love for Lauren. Visit to read full content.

Lauren heard Landon's every word. A lump rose in her throat, and hereves torned red Her tears started flowing uncontrollably. Visit to read the latest chapter of this novel

The sudden outburst of emotion frightened Rose and Tatiana. They started to panic.

Alyssa was the only one who felt pained. She directed her complex gaze toward Landon.

"It's a crying spell."

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Landon wrapped Lauren in his arms.

He put his palm on the back of her

"pm

head and soothed her gently."ip M seems like Lauren is still struggling and with her autism. But that's alright. I will stay with her, and she will get better eventually." Visit

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Alyssa let out a soft sigh.

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How could Lauren get better? She had to face such harsh blows om consecutivelyElt was already very strong-willed of her to not have a complete mental breakdown. Visit to read the latest chapter of this novel

If it were her, she might not even have made it through.

After finishing her food, Landon left the ward to make space for the trio to unleash their talents.

He went into another room and got changed into a full suit set.

Chapter 1986



Landon looked at his reflection in the mirror. His face was well-defined, his eyes were deep, and his short hair was graying.

He was like a cypress tree that was covered in snow after withstanding the vicissitudes of life. The only thing was that he no longer looked as majestic as he used to.

Then, someone knocked on the door.

Landon walked over and opened the door. He smiled. "Hey, Jasper."

Jasper raised his brows slightly. He lifted a plastic bag in his hand and said, "I'm here by my wife's orders to dye your hair."

Landon's lashes fluttered. The smile on his face became wider, and he let out a grin that hadn't been seen in a while.

"I'm not sure if I should trust your skills, Jasper."

"Just give it a try then. I won't charge you if it turns out bad."

Jasper and Landon looked at one another and smiled. It felt as if they hadn't

felt so relaxed in a long time.

Landon sat in front of the mirror with a hairdressing apron around him. Jasper stood behind him and applied the hair dye on his head patiently.

Landon watched as his gray hair was being dyed black. He couldn't help but crack a joke. "I said that I would grow old with Lauren until our hairs turned gray, but here I am, dyeing my hair black in secret..." "Make sure you dye it regularly in the future. Don't think that you can slack off just because you're married. Otherwise, Lauren might not like you anymore," Jasper uttered as he looked at Landon's graying hair. "Lauren will not dislike me. You might become envious of me instead."

Jasper was perplexed.

"Envious that I look older and more mature than you... Ouch!"

Jasper narrowed his eyes. The comb caught in Landon's tangled hair, making him wince in pain. "Have mercy on me, Your Highness! I'm sorry!"

After Landon's hair was dyed, he stood in front of the mirror next to Jasper. It was as if they had returned to when they were newbies in the business world. At that time, they were full of grit as they appeared confidently in the eyes of the public.

"Landon." Jasper felt touched. Waves of emotions surged within him. "I feel like a father giving his child's hand in marriage."

Landon laughed heartily and patted him on the shoulder. "Well, nothing wrong with that. You are like my father anyway!"

In the other room, Lauren changed into a light pink dress that Rose had customized for her. It was a maxi dress with long sleeves and a high collar, suitable for the fall season. It was retro and elegant at the same time. Alyssa helped Lauren to the front of the mirror.

Lauren looked at her beautiful self. Her eyes glistened as they welled up with tears.

"I could've made the dress lift her breasts up more. I overlooked that." Rose

was a perfectionist. She was able to pick out even the smallest flaw. Lauren had been eating poorly, so her body was exceptionally thin. "This color matches Lauren's fair skin very well. The high collar is also beautiful and it makes her neck look slender." Alyssa reminded her of the other positives about the dress in case Rose decided to take it back for alteration. There was not enough time for that!

Tatiana nodded enthusiastically. "She's right. She looks like a swan!" Alyssa giggled. "As for her breasts, her lover will tend to them after they get married. They'll grow bigger."

Lauren was confused, but Rose understood what she meant. Rose and Alyssa shot cheeky looks at one another like two playful women. Even though Tatiana was naive, she was already attached to Sean. So, she understood the meaning of those words immediately. Her face and her neck flushed red in an instant. Just then, a knock sounded at the door.

Alyssa dashed over and opened the door. She saw Landon dressed in his smart

suit, looking handsome. His dark hair was also styled carefully. She nodded satisfactorily. "Looks like my man has got some skill."

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Jasper, who was standing behind Landon, pursed his lips in embarrassment. Visit

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Jasper and Alyssa pulled the man of the hour into the ward.

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He caught sight of Lauren in an elegant pink gown. She had a light makeup look on her face. At that moment, he felt like his entire world had lit up. Visit to read the latest chapter of this novel

"Are you my Lauren?" he asked in a careful and hoarse voice.

Lauren blushed as her heart pounded. She nodded slightly.

"My Lauren... You're beautiful."

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Landon gulped. His heart was filled with immense happiness He walked up to her slowly, picked up her hands, and held them tightly in his. Visit to read the latest chapter of this novel

Chapter 1987



Chapter 1987

Evening time came.

The courthouse took Lauren's health condition into consideration. They reserved a private room specially for the couple to get their marriage registered.

Lauren beamed like the sun the moment they received their marriage certificate. She was so touched that she ran her fingers across the document repeatedly. She treated it like a piece of treasure and was unwilling to let it go.

"Wishing you both a happy and fulfilling marriage!" A staff member shared his sincere blessings.

Everyone knew about the heartfelt story between Landon and Lauren.

Their story had just begun.

"Ah! Ah!" Lauren smiled as she waved the certificate in front of Landon.

"I'm yours for the rest of your life, Mrs. Harper." Landon said.

The newlyweds looked deeply into each other's eyes.

"Ah..." Lauren's cheeks blushed pink as she fixed her eyes on him.

She couldn't express herself verbally. Even if she could, Landon wouldn't give her the chance to speak.

He reached out his arm and wrapped it around her neck. He closed his eyes and kissed her deeply.

The couple took some wedding photos at the courthouse and had them printed on the spot. They also received fresh flowers that the courthouse's staff members had prepared.

Lauren dazzled as the center of attention for the day.

The staff members at the courthouse gasped in awe as they watched them.

The newlyweds walked out of the courthouse hand in hand. Alyssa and Jasper had been waiting outside. When they saw the newlyweds, they approached them immediately and presented the gift they had prepared.

"This is a pair of brooches that I designed myself. They're for both of you."

Alyssa placed one box each on Lauren and Landon's hands as if she were giving away candy to little children. "These were designed by Alexa. Not just anyone can get their hands on them. They're precious gems!"

Lauren opened the box and saw that it was a bird-shaped brooch that was made out of pink tourmaline and diamonds. She loved it very much.

She threw her arms around Alyssa.

As for Landon's brooch, it had a blue tourmaline instead. It was a matching couple design with Lauren's.

Feeling touched, he laughed. "I have once offered two hundred million and still failed to get my hands on Alexa's work. Thanks to my wife, my wish has come true now."

"It's good that you know that."

Alyssa gave Lauren a hug. "Oh, right. Grandpa Newton called me earlier and asked US to go to his place for dinner. He had Ben prepare a feast. He wants to celebrate Lauren's birthday."

Landon hesitated. "Lyse, Jasper, I... Can I have the celebration with Lauren alone tonight?"

Jasper and Alyssa shot a look at each other. In a kind voice, they said, "Have fun then. We will let Grandpa Newton know."

In the car on the way back, Lauren was still feeling weak. She was wearing only her gorgeous gown for a short period of time before she needed the warmth of the thick blanket again.

She snuggled in Landon's arms and clung tightly to their marriage certificate. She still had a sweet smile as she closed her eyes.

After some time, Landon kissed her on her earlobe. He called out to her softly, "Darling? Darling?"

Lauren opened her eyes drowsily. She lifted her head, looking confused.

"Look out the window."

She rubbed her eyes and took a side glance out the car window. Suddenly, her eyes widened.

Every single LED screen on both sides of the major road at Solana City was now displaying the same video.

The eye-catching words were accompanied by raining rose petals, transforming the snowy urban jungle into a romantic sea of roses.

"At 5:00 pm sharp today, the chairman of Harper Group, Landon Harper, officially wedded Beckett Group's, Lauren Beckett.

To have and to hold from this day forward.

For better, for worse, in sickness and in health.

To love and to cherish, till death do US part.

This is my solemn vow."

Passersby on both sides of the road whipped out their phones to record this breathtaking scene.

At the same time, they became the trending topic on Twitter and the talk of the town.

There was a twinkle in Lauren's teary eyes. She lifted her hand slowly and placed her fingers on the window to touch the roses that belonged to her.

Night befell. They were driven up to the top of Solana City's Domere Mountain.

Landon held Lauren tightly in his arms. They looked up into the night sky and watched the grand and beautiful fireworks that were lit only for her.

He had made up for his first regret.

"Lauren, about that day at the amusement park... I was the dog character that danced with you," he whispered in her ear.

"Ah..."

Lauren took out her phone. Her eyes turned red, and her fingers trembled as she typed in her notes app.

"I thought so... But I didn't dare to say that I recognized you. I was afraid that it wasn't you. I feared that I would be disappointed. Landon, I have never stopped loving you, not even for a single moment."

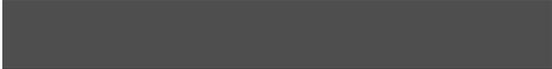
"You know what? Me neither."

Under the starry night sky, they shared a passionate kiss.

The romance of roses was meant only for her.

Fireworks were only beautiful when they watched them together.

Chapter 1988



Chapter 1988

The joyous news about Landon and Lauren's marriage caused a buzz in Solana City. Soon enough, the news also spread to the entire country.

The heartfelt vows and the fireworks lit only for Lauren were the envy of all.

Countless people had recorded and spread the story about this exceptional union.

Even when the time passed and it was no longer trending, those who entered "wedding" as a keyword would still find photos of the romantic moment from that time.

Amber had her black coat on as she looked up at the fireworks in the starlit sky.

Her eyes gleamed. The cool night breeze blew on her wavy hair. She curled her lips up into a smile.

How wonderful.

That woman named Lauren could finally be with the man she loved. She finally had her happy ending.

Amber, on the other hand, was raised in darkness and cruelty. Neither did she deserve to, nor could she have such a pure love story. She could not even walk in the light.

The fireworks of love ended at midnight. The entire world became quiet.

Amber's heart felt empty. She was about to turn around to return to her room when her phone buzzed.

Wesley had sent a photo. She tapped on it immediately. She zoomed in on it, and her eyes widened.

The timestamp showed that it was taken during night time. It showed Carl and a familiar-looking middle-aged man walking out of a manor, looking friendly with one another.

Amber: "One of them is Carl. The other man... is Nicholas?"

Wesley: "Yes. The current police commissioner of Solana City!"

Amber's chest tightened.

Amber: "He's never been to The Millennium. But he's also Jameson's VIP?"

Wesley: "If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, I wouldn't have expected the righteous-looking Chief Novak to be under Mr. Schmidt! I took this photo half a month ago when I was following Carl. He would never bring US along when he goes to meet Nicholas. That shows that they have much to hide!

"This is an important clue, Ms. Altman! As long as we continue looking into Mr. Novak, we should be able to find Jameson's fatal flaw!"

Amber was agitated and disturbed at the same time.

When Jameson was at Kontina, he would already collude with officials. Half the officials at Kontina had received bribes from him. They were either bought

over or threatened by him, which eventually resulted in them submitting to him.

Thanks to Justin, Jameson now had a different battleground. He had also started bribing officials at Solana City as if he was a contagious disease.

With time, his pawns would be all over the entire game board-Solana City. Then, Jasper and Landon might not be able to get rid of him completely even if they joined hands!

Amber: "Stop following Carl, Wesley. You have to stop before Carl finds out! Also, do not look into Nicholas in secret. He's someone who was able to rise to the position as police commissioner, so he's definitely not someone simple. Listen to me. Don't do anything rash, alright?"

Wesley: "But... We've only just found such a big clue..."

Amber: "There are only two most important people in my life, Wesley. You are one of them. You must be safe! I will investigate the rest. Do not act on your own. Got it?"

After a moment, Wesley replied, "Okay, I got it. But Ms. Altman, may I ask who the other important person in your life is?" 1

Amber tugged the lapel of her coat tightly together and closed her eyes.

She could almost feel him hugging her from behind. She could also hear his warm breath and his light-hearted laugh in her ear.

All the iciness she felt within her dissipated.

At this same moment, Axel had been standing silently in the woods outside the Millennium since the fireworks started.

The fireworks lit up the night sky for all of Solana City to see.

Surely, she was also able to see it.



Chapter 1989

Axel had lived a dangerous life. He never had time or energy to date properly, let alone orchestrate anything so romantic.

The fireworks tonight were beautiful.

He thanked Landon for that.

However, no matter how bright and long the fireworks were, it would still be dull if he didn't have anyone to watch it with.

As such, he couldn't help but think of her. Somehow, he took a huge risk and ended up outside The Millennium.

"You see it too, don't you?"

Axel looked up at the brightly lit nightclub. He mumbled to himself, "Does it make you feel lonely to watch the fireworks alone? I feel very alone."

News outlets gave Lauren and Landon's wedding great publicity. Newton was ecstatic as he swiped on his phone. He even had two extra servings of dinner that night. As such, he couldn't even buckle his belt after dinner.

He was well aware that Lauren hadn't recovered from her trauma and that she wasn't in the best condition. Even so, as a grandfather who doted on her, he wished she could marry into the Harper family with her head held high.

After all, their families were reputable and wealthy. Extravagance was important to them.

After having dinner with Newton, Jasper and Alyssa chatted with him and kept him company. They talked about the happy marriage that awaited Landon and Lauren in the future.

"Hey! Ben! Bring me the thing that I prepared!" Newton smiled from ear to ear as he rubbed his hands together.

Soon enough, Ben walked over with a document and put it in Newton's hands. He was smiling.

Newton placed the document in front of Jasper and Alyssa. "May I trouble both of you to take a look at this for me? Let me know what you think about this dowry that I prepared for Lauren."

Jasper picked the document up. Alyssa, who was right next to him, peered over. They leaned their heads against one another.

The document was a list of all the properties, land, shops, cars, and private planes that Newton intended to give to Lauren.

To their surprise, a small portion of the Beckett Group's shares was included too!

The most valuable thing on this list was the shares. Beckett Group's current business performance was unbeatable. Just by owning the shares, Lauren would receive a considerable annual dividend!

"Wow... Lauren is going to be rich!"

Alyssa licked her lips in admiration. "I know who to go to if I ever become poor in the future!"

"You have me. Would I make you live in poverty?"

Jasper smiled lovingly. He gave her a peck on her forehead. "I would make sure that you have a good life even if it means that I have to be a street beggar."

Alyssa thought he sounded silly. Even so, she still blushed. She leaned on his shoulder and acted coy. "I didn't say that I want you to be a street beggar... You're making me look so mean."

Newton smiled from ear to ear as he watched the couple being lovey- dovey with one another. He laughed, "Well, even if he became a street beggar, he would be the leader of all beggars. Then, that'll make you the leader's wife. You should be equally proud!"

Jasper burst out laughing. "You think too highly of me, Grandpa."

"You don't have to be envious of Lauren, Alice. Just wait till you see the list of wedding gifts I prepared for Jasper. You will become the envy of all the women in Solana City!" Newton winked at Jasper.

Jasper understood the hint and straightened his back. His heart started racing, and his cheeks turned red.

"Grandpa Newton..."

Alyssa's heart skipped a beat. Her face blushed pink. As she was trying to come up with something to say, her phone rang.

It was Cyrus calling.

"Please excuse me, Grandpa Newton."

Alyssa got up and left the living room. She walked into the quiet corridor. "What's up, Cyrus?"

"I saw Xavier at the station, Lyse. What in the world is happening?" Cyrus exclaimed in an urgent tone.

"The station? What happened?" A shocked expression came across her face.

"He was involved in dealing drugs and was caught red-handed by our officers!"



Chapter 1990

Jasper and Alyssa hastily bid farewell to Newton, then sped off to the police station with Sean at the wheel.

"Jasper, did you do something stupid?"

Alyssa, being extremely astute, hit the nail on the head. She glared at Jasper's darkened face. "I know Xavier. He wouldn't dare do anything against your wishes. How could he possibly touch that stuff? Did you ask him to buy it?"

Feeling anxious, Jasper gripped her delicate fingers tightly while gazing intensely at her. "Lyse, I did tell him to buy it, but I didn't expect him to do it himself."

"That fool!" Sean, who was driving, was both anxious and angry. He slammed the steering wheel hard.

"Even those unpopular celebrities who want drugs would have their managers handle it, going through layers of middlemen. One slip-up could tank their whole career, after all.

"But Xavier really is brave. He actually went to buy it himself so openly. Does he think Solana City's police force is useless? Doesn't he know that they have been cracking down on drugs recently?"

Alyssa's palms were sweaty, and her heartbeat quickened. "And that's not even the scariest part. The whole of Solana City knows that Xavier is your secretary.

"If this matter gets out, regardless of whether Xavier takes all the blame, people will think that you instructed him to buy drugs. They'll even suspect that you're a hypocritical drug addict."

Jasper frowned deeply. His eyes were red-rimmed.

He wasn't afraid of verbal attacks or malicious plots against him. He was only afraid that Xavier would really, as Alyssa said, take all the blame.

"This is such a big mess. Jamiper must be laughing in his dreams. He didn't even need to lift a finger to cause US trouble. Our own stupidity played right into his hands."

Alyssa was burning with anxiety. "Jasper, if you needed that stuff, you could have told me. I could have asked Colene. She has connections with the Ivory Gang, after all. Or you could have told Landon. He has connections on both sides of the law. 1

"You shouldn't have hidden it from me, and you definitely shouldn't have involved Xavier in this mess. If he makes a slight mistake, even you will take a big fall!"

"It's my fault. I didn't think it through." Jasper tightly gripped Alyssa's hand. His palm was cold. "You can hit me and scold me however you want later. But now, we must first get Xavier out."

"Obviously!"

Alyssa shot Jasper a resentful glance. She tried hard to pull her hand out of his damp palm, but she couldn't. 6

At the police station, Xavier and the man who sold him drugs were held in two separate interrogation rooms for questioning.

No matter how much pressure the police put on him, Xavier just sat there expressionless and kept repeating one sentence. "I won't say anything until my attorney arrives."

"I don't think you have much to say.' The officer interrogating Xavier chuckled coldly.

"You were caught with drugs on you, and with the dealer's confession, the evidence against you is solid. Even if Mr. Beckett steps in to bail you out, you won't be walking out of here. Confess, and you might get a lighter sentence, stubbornly denying it won't benefit you."

Another officer pressured Xavier coldly from the side. "We handle cases differently now. It's all about solid evidence and less about confessions. Don't think that staying silent will make everything okay. We can still prosecute you as long as the evidence is complete."

Xavier's heart pounded like a drum, but he maintained a poker face and refused to give in. "I'm being framed. I want to see my attorney!"

The two police officers gritted their teeth. Just as they were ready to pressure Xavier again, the door to the interrogation room suddenly swung open.

Sean, in a suit and tie, walked in with a stern expression and declared, "I'm Mr. Xavier Hall's attorney, Sean Lynch. From this moment on, you can ask me any questions, but my client has the right to remain silent."

Xavier and Sean exchanged a glance, and Xavier's dark eyes were instantly filled with hope.

However, the atmosphere in Cyrus' office was heavy. "This Xavier situation is going to be tough."