

## Can't Win Me Back Chapter 1321 - 1340

### Chapter 1321

"Oh, I see. I thought it was someone else." Winston didn't take Angelina's words seriously at all. He

looked toward Cyrus as if he was about to entrust him with an important task.

"You say that Landon will be asking for Lauren's hand in marriage. That means that he has yet to

propose officially. Just because a goalkeeper is standing at the goalpost doesn't mean scoring is

impossible. You still have a chance, Cyrus."

Cyrus held his head in his hands. He was frustrated. He really wished that he could dig a hole for

himself and hide in it right now.

Just as Winston finished speaking, they heard the sound of quick and urgent footsteps approaching.

"Winston! Why did you bring a whole troop of your people to our yard? What are you trying to do? Take

the house down?" Alyssa had one hand on her hips. She glared at Winston angrily.

Her emotional and mental state had settled down at this point in time, thanks to the power of love. She

was no longer going to resist or fear facing off against Winston.

Winston was an arrogant man. But it didn't matter if he used the power of the entire KS Group to

repress them.

After their steamy night last night, Alyssa turned around and pressed her fair-skinned and warm body

against Jasper's. She tapped his moist, thin lips and asked in a gentle voice, "What's on your mind,

Jasper?"

Jasper bit down gently on her finger. He stroked her delicate back, which was wet with sweat. "I was

thinking what our next hurdle might be."

"Why are you thinking about that for no good reason?"

Alyssa turned and rested her head on his chest. "There is no problem that cannot be solved. There is nothing that we cannot overcome as long as we go through it hand in hand. Hey, you've already chickened out once. You're not going to be a cowardly jerk again, are you?" Jasper had a frown on his face. He gave her a loving tug on her waist. "I wasn't chickening out, Lyse. I was just..."

Alyssa giggled. "I know. I was just pulling your leg." Jasper was speechless. She was pulling his leg by calling him a cowardly jerk? Upon reflecting, Jasper

realized that Alyssa wasn't entirely wrong. It was true that he used to be quite a jerk. He would just treat it as her way of being endearing toward him.

"All in all, only death can separate us in this life," stated Alyssa with a monotone voice, combining seriousness with a touch of coyness.

"There is absolutely nothing that can separate us." Tears welled up in Jasper's eyes. He interlocked his fingers with hers. "We will face the challenges in this life together. Till death do us part."

Winston was startled to see Alyssa, whom he had not seen in days.

This evening, Alyssa was only in regular-looking sportswear. She didn't have any makeup on. She had a bag of fruits in her left hand. It was obvious that she had just gone to the supermarket.

She was his cherished daughter—someone extremely precious to him! From a young age, a multitude of staff members attended to her every need. Yet, she now had to go to the supermarket personally to do groceries. She no longer had a classy air around her!

Winston loved Alyssa with all his heart. He was about to snap when he noticed Jasper standing behind

Alyssa. He was carrying four bags full of groceries in both his arms. His hands were full.

Winston knitted his brows tightly. A strong sense of heartache and sorrow built up within him.

Amidst these emotions, he even felt an inexplicable hint of admiration.

Jasper was quick-witted. He spotted that Winston's eyes had turned red. He thought that Winston was

still mad, so he quickly put his bags of groceries down and greeted him.

"I'm very sorry, Mr. Taylor."

"What are you apologizing for? Winston should be the one who should apologize to you instead. He

shouldn't have taken advantage of his seniority and hit you, no matter what!"

Alyssa glared at Winston angrily.

Winston felt a pain in his heart. He sighed deeply in frustration, then spoke coldly,

"It has been so many

days, Lyse. You have done so many ridiculous things. You have also seen the person you wanted to

see. My patience is limited. It's time for you to come back with me.

## Chapter 1322

The atmosphere in the living room turned frosty in an instant.

Cyrus recognized that he couldn't and wouldn't be able to persuade Alyssa.

If he tried, he would only make the situation worse.

So, he retreated discreetly.

Angelina also brought Lauren away, leaving space for the rest to talk.

Jasper held his breath. His hands were trembling.

Subconsciously, he reached out, wanting to hold Alyssa's hand.

But, he stopped midway and curled his fingers in. He really didn't want Alyssa to leave. He was never a coward.

When he loved someone, he would love them fully.

When there was someone he hated, he hated them to the core.

It was just that he was indebted to Alyssa.

At the same time, he felt guilt toward Winston.

No matter if it was the three years of heart-rending marriage or Alyssa's miscarriage...

These were all his fault. He was the one who hurt Winston's precious daughter. He had committed an unpardonable sin. He didn't mind if Winston berated him or even beat him up again. He would allow him to vent his anger until he was placated.

"What are you thinking, Winston?" Alyssa scoffed.

With an adamant look, she continued, "I wouldn't have risked falling and running away from home if I wanted to listen to you. I think it's best for you not to focus so much on me.

"I had spent all those years being away and wandering in a foreign land. You didn't turn the entire country inside out to find me

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back then. Yet now, you are scheming and using every possible means just so you can ruin my happiness?"

Jasper pressed his lips tightly together and stepped forward.

Alyssa still had a determined look on her face.

He stared at her side profile with a gaze filled with concern.

"Alyssa! You..."

Winston's face turned pale, and his breathing became irregular.

A fire of rage burned from within him.

"Look at you now! Are you still my precious daughter? "You even went to the supermarket in person to do your own groceries.

Have you had to cook your own meals these few days? "You were no different from a housekeeper in the Beckett family, except that you worked without pay for three years.

Haven't you had enough of that? Is this the kind of love that you wanted? Is this the kind of life that you wanted to have?"

The more Winston spoke, the more enraged he became.

She was the only daughter he had had with the woman he loved the most.

She should be loved! How could she suffer a life like that? 1 Didn't Jasper know how to get the chores done?

"Winston, this is the life that I have always wanted. A normal life."

Alyssa was filled with a plethora of emotions.

She choked on her tears as she continued, "I don't think that I am suffering in any way because this is what I want.

I want a life with just the two of us under one roof and spending our days together."

Blood drained from Jasper's lips, and his fingers curled up into a fist of regret. Spending their days together...

Words were not enough to express Jasper's feelings for Alyssa.

That was what Alyssa had always wanted.

But he had only managed to fulfill her wishes now.

"You have never experienced these. Neither have you really understood me. I would go as far as to say that you didn't even know what Mom wished for. So, you do not have the right to dictate my life. You cannot get in the way of the choice that I've made."

Alyssa's words pierced through Winston's heart.

The world in front of him gradually became a blur.

"Also, these days, Jasper has been the one doing the cooking. He cleaned the house and did my laundry. I was merely accompanying him to buy the ingredients."

Alyssa wrapped her warm hands around Jasper's tightened fist.

She intertwined her fingers with his, then said, "My Jasper knows how to do everything other than having kids.

So, you don't have to be such a busybody and worry about me.

"Feel free to stay for a meal tonight, and you'll get to try Jasper's cooking. Otherwise, you may take your leave."

After Cyrus retreated, he hadn't actually left because he still had matters to speak with Alyssa about.

He simply strolled around in the manor.

He ended up walking along a long corridor.

There, he discovered paintings that had been framed up in delicate- looking copper frames that were hung up on the walls.

Some of them were paintings of scenery of the early summer.  
Some had lively dogs.  
But, more than that, there were portrait paintings.  
He couldn't help but stop in front of a three-foot-tall painting.  
The painting portrayed a man in a black shirt.  
He was slender and tall, with broad shoulders and a narrow waist.

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His eyes were as bright as a star.  
The man depicted in the painting was none other than Landon.  
Cyrus widened his eyes and inspected the artwork carefully.  
His decent upbringing refrained him from giving in to his urge to touch the painting.  
“What an impressive piece. It is as lifelike as a photograph.”

Chapter 1323

"Did you mean that?" Cyrus jumped.  
He turned around immediately. He hadn't realized that Lauren was behind him.  
She was hugging a brown fluffy teddy tightly and looking at him sheepishly.  
Lauren looked adorable to him at that moment.  
Cyrus's gaze became slightly deeper.  
He laughed light-heartedly and answered in a warm tone, "Of course I meant it. Did you paint this?"  
"Yeah, I did." Lauren nodded.  
“You must have put a lot of thought and emotions into it. It took quite a bit of effort, didn't it?”  
"Mm... That's alright. The most important thing is that Landon likes it."  
Lauren's eyes lit up at the mention of Landon.  
She smiled sweetly, and her face blushed pink.  
“Landon treats me very well. There is not much I can give him, so I just did this painting as a gift. I'm glad that he likes it.”  
Cyrus' heart skipped a beat.  
Throughout all these years of being a police officer, he was always immersed in the dark side of the world.  
Every day, he fought fiercely with countless abominable devils.

It had been a very long time since he had seen such pure eyes.  
The woman in front of him was just like the clear moonlight.  
Inconspicuously, she had lit up his dull and gloomy heart.  
Lauren noticed that he had his gaze fixed on her.  
She blinked and looked at him with a confused look on her face.  
"Mr.Cyrus?"

Cyrus snapped out of his thoughts.  
The corner of his lip curled upward.  
He said, "I remember the time from Lyla's birthday party when you addressed Lyse as Alyssa.So, there's no need to bother with formalities.Call me Cyrus, just like Alyssa does."  
"Cyrus?"

Lauren was compliant.She addressed him exactly how he asked her to.  
Cyrus smiled with his dashing eyes.  
He was about to reply when a cold voice sounded.  
"Mr.Cyrus, Ms.Lauren is Mr.Landon's partner.It isn't appropriate for you to be so close with her in private."  
Angelina watched Cyrus with a gloomy look in her eyes.  
She walked briskly to Lauren's side, giving off an attitude of assertiveness as if she was defending Landon's rights.Cyrus remained calm.He smiled slightly and responded, "What did I do that was so indecent that warrants such defensiveness from you? "Why? Does being with Landon mean that she doesn't have the right to interact with others normally? Are you saying that any man who talks to her will have to die? Is he overly paranoid, or is his self-esteem just so low?"

"You!"  
Angelina gnashed her teeth as she glared at Cyrus.  
If he weren't Alyssa's elder brother, she would have already given him a tight slap on the face! "Angie..."  
Lauren tugged at Angelina's shirt and shook her head anxiously.  
Lauren might not be very articulate and look simple-minded, but she often understood the ways of the world.  
Cyrus was Alyssa's brother.  
It was because of this connection that he would stop to chat with her.

She was aware of that.

If they were to have bad blood just because of a tiny matter like this, it would put Alyssa in a tough position, and that would be bad.

Cyrus caught a glimpse of Lauren's nervous expression.

In the end, he smiled nonchalantly and strutted past Angelina.

"No one can steal whatever that is meant to be his. So, what's the use of being overprotective? You're wasting your time being concerned. After all, us Taylors are cultured people."

To their great surprise, Winston chose the latter after being given the option to leave or stay for dinner.

He decided to stay despite having had an intense argument with Alyssa.

After a recent argument, they were now sharing a meal.

Only the Taylors were capable of making 180-degree turns like this.

Nonetheless, Jasper was now scared out of his mind.

He had to whip up a meal under Winston's watchful eyes.

He had never been so freaked out in his entire life.

His heart was in his mouth! 1 Winston sat in the living room, exuding regality to intimidate Jasper.

Jasper felt like he was welcoming royalty.

"Lyse, I only have a few simple dishes in my repertoire. Plus, they're not that great."

Jasper stood stiffly in the kitchen, feeling worried.

"Would those make him throw up?" Alyssa snorted.

"You're exaggerating."

## Chapter 1324

Alyssa burst out laughing.

She put the apron over Jasper's neck and then tied it around his waist.

"Well, I have to say that Lyla has been feeding my dad well all these years. He has become an extremely picky gourmand."

Jasper gulped, then took a deep breath.

"But don't you worry. I will be here to guide you. You just have to follow my instructions, and you won't be too far off."



Tenderness filled Jasper's eyes.

He pulled Alyssa in for an embrace and planted a loving kiss on her forehead.

"Yes, ma'am!"

"No! You've got the sequence wrong! You should've put the meat in first! "

"Oh, no! That's too much vinegar!"

"Oh, my! It's burning! You've got to flip it!"

Jasper and Alyssa were making a racket in the kitchen, giving the impression that they were creating chaos.

Initially, Winston sat in the living room with his eyes shut and resting.

When he heard the commotion, he couldn't help but peer at the kitchen.

The kitchen on the ground floor of the manor had an open concept.

Although it was a short distance from the living room, Winston could still get a look at the situation there.

Jasper's movements were hectic.

Alyssa was giving him instructions by the side.

She'd even give him a cheeky bump with her butt or flick his forehead from time to time.

Jasper showed no sign of losing his patience at all.

Not only that, he kept looking at Alyssa and smiling from ear to ear.

He looked so much like a fool.

Winston couldn't understand what Alyssa saw in him.

Even though Winston's expression still overflowed with resentment, the look in his eyes had gradually become softer.

He couldn't turn his eyes away from the pair of lovers.

All of a sudden, a phrase came to mind—life's simple pleasures.

This sort of relaxed environment and simple joys were what he had always been chasing after.

"Look at Ms. Alyssa, Mr. Taylor. She looks so happy. It's been a while since you've seen her smile like that, right?"

Neil stood beside him.

A warm smile spread across his face.

Winston harrumphed.

He mumbled angrily, "How did an outstanding man like myself end up with such a hopeless romantic like her? She will be

miserable in the future!"

Neil smiled and urged, "Let her be a hopeless romantic. Ms. Alyssa is stunning and intelligent. There is nothing that she can't get.

This is tens of billions of assets.

She wouldn't be able to spend it all even if she threw money off the roof of KS Group's building.

"Since she wants to date him, why don't you just let her be? Moreover, who would dare to slight the Taylor family? "Other than

that, Mr. Beckett is quite a decent person. After scrutinizing him for a while, I realized that his looks and family background

matched Ms. Alyssa's, not to mention his professional capabilities.

"Most importantly, he is an upright and kind person. Out of all the people in his generation, he can be considered as one of the outstanding ones.

Winston furrowed his thick brows. He looked up at Neil with a doubtful look in his eyes.

"What's wrong with you today? Did he bribe you? Why are you speaking up for him?"

Neil chuckled helplessly.

"I was just sharing my observations."

Winston looked away unhappily. He continued sitting there, sulking.

"Mr. Taylor, you chose to stay for a meal tonight because you missed Ms. Alyssa. Am I right?"

Neil leaned forward and noticed a hint of loneliness in Winston's darkened eyes. He couldn't help but feel for him.

"Ms. Alyssa has been in hiding, so you were extremely worried. You've finally got to see her and can't bear to part with her so quickly."

That was why such a proud man like Winston decided to get off his high horse and chose to stay for dinner.

"You are as stubborn as a mule. If only you could just express your love for Ms. Alyssa more directly, there wouldn't be anything that you wouldn't be able to solve."

Winston pursed his lips.

He lowered his eyes and kept quiet.

After a while, he suddenly asked, "Have I been that terrible, Neil? "Previously, I kept trying to push Lyse to be together with Jameson. That was because she was still young and didn't understand the essence of marriage. Compatibility is far more important than feelings.

"Jameson is more considerate than Jasper. He is also better than Jasper at coaxing Lyse. For now, she may not feel like there is anything wrong with being with that blockhead.

"However, marriage means spending decades of her life with that person. The cruel side of marriage will emerge after the passion dies down.

"Would she be able to take it when that time comes? Is she certain that she will not regret it? I only wish for Lyse to keep her options open and consider others. Is there anything wrong with that?"

Neil listened to him patiently.

He pondered before replying earnestly, "Every parent wants what's best for their child. You do have the right intentions. That being said, I do have a different perspective on one of the things you said.

"You said that feelings are not as important as compatibility. But I feel that character is far more important than compatibility.

"I am not very familiar with Mr. Jameson, so it is not my place to comment. One thing I will say, though, is that he was the one who intentionally revealed Ms. Alyssa and Mr. Beckett's whereabouts to you.

You should very well know what his motives were.

"Since he fancies Ms. Alyssa, he should compete fair and square with Mr. Beckett. Instead, he used you to pressure Mr. Beckett. I think that that was not a very honorable thing to do."

Winston was very taken aback upon hearing those words.

## Chapter 1325

One agonizing hour later, Jasper served up a few fairly presentable dishes on the dining table.

He could manage simple dishes.

Once the complexity of the dishes had increased, he realized he wasn't talented at cooking! Moreover, these were dishes he had

completed under Alyssa's supervision.

If he had relied on himself, dinner would most likely be served at midnight.

By the time Jasper was done, his forehead was covered in sweat.

His white shirt was also completely soaked in his sweat.

Alyssa noticed all these, and her heart ached for him.

She picked up a piece of tissue to wipe his sweat for him.

She pouted, "Winston is so troublesome. He has so many cooks at home. There is also Lyla, who is such a capable cook.

Why did he insist on staying when he could have all the scrumptious food at home? He's just making things difficult for others!"

"Lyse, you and Mr. Taylor haven't seen each other in a long time. Plus, you said it yourself that he can stay and try my cooking."

Jasper didn't see it as troublesome at all.

On the contrary, he enjoyed the heartwarming moment of cooking with the woman he loved.

Alyssa felt terrible that her sarcastic invitation ended up tormenting Jasper.

Her face flushed red with anger.

"I was saying that out of spite! Wasn't he able to tell?"

"It's alright, Lyse."

Jasper wrapped his arm around her slender waist, comforting her softly, "I've been thinking of doing something for Mr. Taylor anyway. Even if it is a simple meal."

"You're thinking of getting in his good books?"

Alyssa leaned close to him until the tips of their noses almost touched.

"I think that you should just forget about that thought. Winston is very unreasonable. You can bombard him with as much flattery as you would like, and he may still stay mad.

"Plus, there's no need for you to do that. It doesn't matter whether he's willing or not. As long as we are together, nothing else matters."

Winston cleared his throat loudly, interrupting the pair's private conversation.

Alyssa rolled her eyes.

Winston was such a killjoy! "So, I guess I made things difficult for Jasper. I thought that I had to wait till breakfast time,"

Winston scoffed as he took a seat elegantly.

Jasper didn't respond.

Alyssa sniggered, "You were the one who said that you'd stay.No one forced you to."

She narrowed her eyes and said sarcastically, "Jasper has never cooked for anyone personally.So far, I was the only one.You've lucked out today, so just stop fault-finding."

Winston was speechless.

Jasper couldn't hold himself back from laughing.

They were indeed like father, like daughter.

Their manner of speech and tone of voice were the same.

It was like they were looking into a mirror.

Winston straightened his back.

He picked up his cutleries and dug in.

The entire time, Jasper felt like his heart wasn't his own.He couldn't even feel his own heartbeat anymore.He held his breath as

he watched and waited for Winston to taste his dishes.It was time for him to prove himself.His emotions surged.

It was as if he was receiving an appraisal.

"Is salt free of charge for you, or do you own a salt farm? These vegetables are all overcooked.They don't look fresh at all.This one's a failure!"

Winston gave his comments as he devoured the dishes.

Jasper had predicted that Winston wouldn't have great comments for him.

But he hadn't expected it to be this bad.

He could only respond with an awkward smile.

Besides, Winston had allowed Jasper to make a meal for him.

That was already something that was beyond what Jasper could imagine.

At last, Alyssa's patience ran out.She lost her cool.

"That's it, Winston! I don't care if you can stomach these or not! Just leave! Jasper put in so much effort in his cooking.Even if

you don't appreciate his gesture, you shouldn't insult him like this! "Moreover, didn't you say that they don't taste good? Why

have you eaten so much? Are you trying to torture yourself?"

"I rushed over to Solana City to see you. I haven't even changed since I got off the airplane. Until now, I didn't even have a single drop of water to drink! "I was finally invited to stay for a meal, but this fellow here took his own sweet time with cooking! I was famished! "Otherwise, would I be happy to eat all these? All these dishes he made are just so...so lousy! I could barely eat them!"

Upon saying that, Winston stuffed more roasted potatoes into his mouth.

He chowed down on them.

It was as if he was grinding down Jasper's bones.

Alyssa was still fuming at first.

But she lost it once she heard Winston's explanation, and she burst out in laughter.

When Winston saw that Alyssa was amused, he ended up smiling too.

Jasper and Neil saw that Jasper and Alyssa had finally broken the ice.

They were also overjoyed.

The atmosphere surrounding the dining table had lightened, and the earlier tension and anxiety had dissipated.

At least, it was now a tad more homely and warm.

## Chapter 1326

Surprisingly, the dinner turned out to be a peaceful meal.

Winston and Alyssa seemed to have a tacit understanding of one another. Neither of them made any mention of the things that would make each other upset.

"Woah! Are you all having a feast by yourselves? How could you!"

Cyrus came over after being tired of strolling around the house. He was also hungry, so he sat himself down at the dining table too.

"That wasn't very hospitable of you, Lyse. Why didn't you call me over when there's a feast here? I don't even have an appetite as big as Silas'. Were you afraid that I'd gobble everything up?"

Winston and Alyssa looked at Cyrus. In unison, they exclaimed, "Oh! I forgot about you!"

After dinner, Winston got ready to leave.

Alyssa stood on the steps as she watched Winston and Neil depart. As for Jasper, he wasn't just going to stand and watch. He walked them straight to their car.

Before Winston got into the car, he paused. He stood up tall and looked at Jasper with a deep gaze.

He said, "I stayed back tonight because I missed my daughter. I just wanted to spend more time with her. Don't you dare feel smug about it. I have never acknowledged you nor forgiven you."

In a neutral tone, Jasper replied, "I'm aware that I'm very inadequate. So, I've never expected to receive your forgiveness. I just hope you can give me a chance to be good to Lyse."

Jasper's voice was hoarse and overflowing with bitterness.

"I am willing to give whatever it takes and sacrifice my life for her."

Winston's pupils constricted, and a dimness settled in his eyes. He quirked his brow and sniggered,

"You can present yourself however you like in front of Lyse. That is up to you.

However, it is not necessary for you to act so affectionate when you're in front of me.

"I am cold-hearted toward anyone who is not my family. Even if you give your life away for my daughter's sake, I will still hate you. I will continue to despise you. I do not approve of your relationship. I still don't. Lastly, all of your efforts will go down the drain. It might all be too late when you regret it by then."

"There is only one thing I regret in my life." Jasper's eyes began to well up with tears. His thin lips trembled as he continued, "My only regret is not knowing my own heart from the start and not cherishing Lyse properly.

"Even if I cannot be with her, I will watch over her forever. I will do so until I take my last breath."

Winston stared straight at him without blinking. After a while, he got into the car without saying another word.

Jasper watched as the Taylor family's entourage of luxury cars drove into the distance. Then, he turned around and walked back to Alyssa's side.

Alyssa clung onto his arm and asked, "What did you and Winston talk about?"

"Winston asked me to tell you to sleep early and to have your meals on time. You are not as strong as you might think. So, don't overexert yourself."

Jasper lowered his head and planted an adoring kiss on her cheek. "And he said to stop eating ice cream when you're on your period."

"I can't be sure if Winston actually said the first few points. But you were the one who included the last point, right?" Alyssa squinted at him. She saw right through his sneaky little move.

"I really can't hide anything from you." Jasper pouted helplessly. "That's why you should listen to me for once, alright?"

"Okay. But what in the world did Winston say to you? I'm sure it wasn't anything nice!" Alyssa persisted.

Jasper's eyelashes fluttered. He laughed. "No matter what he said, aren't you still right here next to me? I am satisfied as long as he didn't take you away."

Neil didn't have the guts to speak to Winston along their way back.

The atmosphere in the car was quite heavy. However, he felt that this heaviness wasn't because of Jasper.

After quite some time, Winston exclaimed, "Actually, that fella's cooking was not too bad."

Neil widened his eyes. But he just smiled slightly and said, "That was mainly thanks to Ms. Alyssa's good guidance."

"He was also really patient. If it were me, I wouldn't be able to handle having a woman nagging in my ear like a buzzing mosquito. I'd be so annoyed," Winston grumbled.

"Mrs. Taylor was also someone who loved to chat and nag at you. I've never seen you lose your patience with her either..."

Neil's mention of Winston's first wife, Jennifer Whitaker, who was also Alyssa's birth mother, was a slip of the tongue. His chest



tightened, and he stopped mid-sentence. He couldn't bear to continue in case he reminded Winston of his grief.

A cloud of sadness came over Winston's sharp eyes. He felt a lump in his throat. His hands, which were resting on his knees, trembled. He clenched his hands into tight fists.

Winston stayed silent for a while. He then mumbled in a raspy voice, "Neil. I miss Jenny."

Neil opened his mouth, wanting to share a few words of comfort with Winston, but he couldn't find the right words to say.

## Chapter 1327

Winston said, "Everything else aside, there was one thing Lyse said that hurt me. She said that I had never known what her mother wished for..."

Winston closed his eyes slowly. Tears moistened his long lashes, casting a sense of loneliness under the street lights.

"Who else in this shitty world, other than myself, would understand her?" asked Winston.

"Mr. Taylor, Ms. Alyssa is young. She hasn't experienced many of the things you've been through, so she's still ignorant." Neil let out a long sigh. "If she gets a chance to know everything about Mrs. Taylor in the future, she will come to understand your good intentions."

After Winston left, Angelina accompanied Lauren upstairs to rest. Alyssa and Cyrus sat in the living room to chat.

"I wasn't the tattletale, Lyse. I swear!" Cyrus exclaimed with three of his fingers lifted.

"I know. We Taylors are not such jackasses. Even Liam, who hates Jasper the most, would never use such a cheap method to pressure us via Winston."

Alyssa's gaze was steady. She trusted her family members unconditionally.

Cyrus stroked his chin and wondered, "You have both been staying here recently. If Winston knew about it in the first place, he

would have turned up long ago.

"This shows that there was someone else who harbored bad intentions. They were the whistle-blower! Hmm. Who could it be?"

Alyssa didn't hesitate as she guessed, "It must have been that sly man, Jameson.

"I have been feeling so suffocated these two days, so I begged Jasper to go out for a spin with me.

Jameson has eyes everywhere in Solana City. I wouldn't be surprised if one of his men spotted and tailed us.

"At the same time, they may have informed Winston to win some brownie points. This is very likely the case."

It had become second nature to her to be suspicious of Jameson. She had already identified him as a villain.

"Damn it. That Jameson Schmidt has a lot of time on his hands, doesn't he? He really stooped so low."

Cyrus clicked his tongue and shook his head with contempt.

"Whatever. He can choose to play all these dirty tricks for all I care. Jasper and I won't be affected anyway," said Alyssa as she smirked at Jasper.

Jasper's eyes filled with gentleness. He kissed her on the lips, as if they were the only ones in the room.

Alyssa never had to ask for a kiss, as he was the proactive one.

Cyrus looked like he couldn't bear looking at the scene before him.

He turned away and commented, "You're both greasier than the roasted pork belly I had for dinner tonight! Anyway... We should

get down to business. I still have to get back to the station after we're done."

They focused their attention back on the purpose of their meeting.

Jasper opened the envelope that Cyrus brought. He leaned his head against Alyssa's as they both studied the document.

"The trial for Sophia's case will begin soon. This is the information that Silas and I have compiled. It includes some questions that will be asked in court. Do look and see if there's anything else to add."

Cyrus's expression turned serious. He continued, "There is only one opportunity. We must grab onto this chance. We certainly

cannot give the Beckett Group or Sophia a second to breathe!" Jasper was bright-eyed. He held on tightly to the document in his hand. At that moment, the lightweight papers felt like a tonne of bricks to him. The day when they could see the light at the end of the tunnel was finally coming. Alyssa squeezed Jasper's hand. She fixed her eyes on Cyrus. Her eyes were full of gratitude. "Thank you, Cyrus. Silas, too.

"Regarding Sophia's case, this is where you should stop. You are already doing something illegal by bringing this information out for us. Plus, you've both helped us enough.

"Jasper and I will follow up with the rest of the matters. You and Silas don't have to worry about it anymore."

Cyrus pressed his lips together and contemplated. He then nodded and said, "All the best."

"Thank you," answered Jasper firmly. He returned a slight smile.

Cyrus got up and walked to the entrance to take his leave as it was getting late. He insisted that they didn't have to see him out.

Right when he was about to open the door, the door swung open. Suddenly, a man appeared in front of him. It was Landon, who had just gotten home.

Surprise crossed Landon's face when he saw Cyrus at the door.

What was happening? What was Cyrus doing at his house?

Cyrus, on the other hand, looked calm. "Please excuse me."

His impassive attitude made Landon fly into a rage.

Landon raised his eyebrow and looked him up and down mockingly. With hostility, he remarked, "Oh, look who's here. Aren't you that person who was on television?"

"Yes, that's me. And you are?"

Cyrus tilted his head to the side. He was not going to back down from his arrogance. He asked, "Are

## Chapter 1328

Cyrus' casual description of Landon made the tension around them rise to the roof. Landon's eyes shot wide open, and his entire body tensed up!

How could he describe him like that?

He hadn't been away from his home for too long. During that time, Cyrus had already come to create chaos in his house?

Alyssa and Jasper had heard the ruckus at the door. They walked on over.

"Cyrus? You're still here?" Alyssa, sharp-minded, noticed the standoff between Cyrus and Landon, shooting them a suspicious look.

"Oh, I wasn't too sure how to open this door. Mr. Landon came back just in time and opened the door for me. I'll be leaving now."

Cyrus looked back and smiled brightly at Alyssa, as if nothing had just happened.

"Once this busy period is over, I will take you out to have some fun. You shouldn't be stuck living with this man every day. How boring is that."

Jasper stayed silent. As much as he knew that Cyrus was kidding, Jasper couldn't help but feel jealous again.

Even after Cyrus left, Landon was still unable to calm himself down. Alarm bells were going off in his head.

He couldn't shake off the thought that Cyrus had met Lauren while he was away from home. He also speculated that they had a significant amount of interaction.

"What's wrong, Landon? You don't look too good," Jasper asked out of concern.

"I'm fine," replied Landon. He exhaled heavily.

Alyssa was sharp. Instantly, she had perceived that Landon was bothered. She initiated an apology to him.

"I was the one who asked Cyrus to bring some documents to me here. I'm sorry for not informing you in advance. You are best friends with Jasper, but I understand that this is still the home that you share with Lauren.

"I am just here as a guest. It was thoughtless of me to invite an outsider into your home. I promise it won't happen again.

Jasper was startled. He put his arm around her waist and quickly explained on behalf of Landon,

"You're overthinking it, Lyse. Landon is not such a petty person."

Landon widened his eyes and waved his hand. "Alyssa, don't say that!

"I'm glad to have you here. Jasper is happy, and my wife is even more so! Lauren has been in a much better mood ever since you came. She has also become chattier. How I wish that you could both stay on until the new year! I have no objections at all!"

Alyssa leaned into Jasper's arms. They looked into each other's eyes.

Alyssa then said, "I feel bad for encroaching on your space for such a long time. I do enjoy Lauren's company. But, our presence here is indeed making it inconvenient for you and Lauren, especially if you want to be romantic with one another."

Her words made Landon feel embarrassed. He used to be a womanizer. But his sex life took a 180- degree turn because of Lauren. His love life and sex life were now sacred to him.

Thus, upon hearing Alyssa's words, he felt quite shy. His face flushed red—like a man in love for the first time.

"Moreover, my Dad came by tonight."

"Mr. Taylor came?" Landon was shocked. How much had he missed during his time away from home?

"Even though he brought his men with him earlier, he didn't force me to leave with him. In fact, he even stayed to have dinner, which Jasper prepared personally."

"What the... Jasper cooked for him?"

Landon was floored. Still, he didn't forget to tease Jasper, "Mr. Taylor is such a brave man. I can't believe he dared to try your food. What happens if he gets diarrhea?"

Jasper's expression turned dark. Through gritted teeth, he replied, "Did you have trash for dinner? Your breath stinks."

"My dad's attitude toward Jasper wasn't great, but he wasn't as hostile as before. Now that he already knows that we are living together, there is nothing more for us to hide. So, we'll pack up our things in the next two days. We'll go back to my place."

Alyssa smiled sweetly. She couldn't wait to be able to spend time with Jasper alone.

Jasper knew Alyssa very well. He murmured right by her ear. "You know what? Let's move tonight."

Alyssa yawned. "Aren't you tired after busying yourself the entire evening? I'm beat. Let's talk about this tomorrow."

Jasper still had his arm around her waist. He caressed her naughtily and whispered, "Well then, you can be the passive one tonight. Let me do the work."

Despite Jasper muttering those words under his breath, Landon heard everything! Landon couldn't help but think, "That son of a bitch. When did he become so flirtatious?"

## Chapter 1329

Landon swallowed hard as he felt a burning passion ignite within him. He had decided what position he wanted to make love to his delicate wife.

"Pervert!" Biting her red lips, Alyssa forcefully jabbed Jasper in the ribs with her elbow.

The three of them took their seats back in the living hall.

After a while, Lauren fell asleep watching the television. Angelina came downstairs and prepared them tea after settling Lauren down.

She looked at Landon, wanting to say something, but stopped herself. She figured this wasn't the best time to report to him.

"I went back home." Landon lowered his head and drank his tea. His tone was low, and he sounded guilty. "Jasper, Lyse, I owe you an apology. My grandfather managed to arrange for the police to release Zoe." A cold glint instantly appeared in Jasper's eyes when he heard that name.

"She did something terrible, but it was not enough to convict her of it. I knew she would be released after being detained for half a month."

Alyssa remained unfazed. She was calm. "However, even if Zoe were released, she would be as good as dead in this country—she would be shunned by society.

"Her reputation has been dragged through the mud because of the negative news surrounding her. She can wave her dream to

be the center of attention and talk of the town goodbye.

"Even if she has the Harper family in her pocket, officials have banned her. She will never appear in public events, TV stations, or livestream platforms. Being a pianist was completely out of the question.

"Sophia and Zoe were the nastiest women in Solana City. Their bad reputation would stand for generations."

"That's not enough. It will never be enough." A fiery flame swirled in Jasper's eyes as if they would devour everything. He squeezed Alyssa's hand so tightly that it hurt. "She needs to die without a body to make up for the damage she did to Lyse.

We're letting her off too easily with this punishment.

"Landon, she may be your sister, but I have to say this. Even if the law lets her go, I won't. I will never let her go.

Alyssa's heart trembled as she rested her head on Jasper's shoulder. She felt an inexplicable sense of peace.

"Jasper, I don't think you have your chance to do so. I've sent her away." Landon sighed as his frown deepened. "My grandfather and mother still want to protect her. I fought with them.

"But in the end, Zoe only got kicked out. I will monitor her closely and not let her enter the country again. Lyse, this is as much I can do for now. I want to give her a piece of my mind too, but..." "You don't need to explain anymore, Landon. I know you're caught between a rock and a hard place." Alyssa smiled lightly and comforted warmly, "I'm thankful enough for how much you've done. It's enough. You don't need to do anything else.

"You are at a crucial season of your career. If you go overboard with how you handle Zoe, your annoying uncle will use it against you and make things difficult. Your grandfather will have a bias toward you too. Don't underestimate these biases. They might be the death of your victory to getting the Harper Group.

"Plus, besides seeing that bitch getting the justice she deserves, I am more eager to see you and

Lauren being happy together. I want to see her marry into the Harper family gloriously. Who cares about the obstacles ahead of you? You are strong enough to defend and protect her."

Alyssa was implying that he should focus on establishing his authority in the Harper Group. His future with Lauren would be bright with this authority in his hands.

"Lyse, Jasper, don't worry. Leave Lauren to me."

Landon looked at Alyssa gratefully and considered her a good friend for her kindness and understanding in wishing him and Lauren happiness.

However, he wasn't jealous.

Lauren was the perfect woman in his eyes.

Jameson was in the shooting range practicing his gun skills when Carl hastily ran to him to report to him.

He was wearing a spotless white shirt and straight black suit pants. Black leather cuffs were clipped to his arms, restricting his bulging biceps.

Beneath his gold-rimmed glasses, his gaze was as sharp as a knife. He held the gun with precision, aiming and firing three shots at the target 100 yards away.

"Bang, bang, bang!"

Carl covered his ears as he admired his boss.

## Chapter 1330

Carl thought Jameson looked extremely cool. Jameson was carrying a mesmerizing and manly vibe to him. He was sexy. He didn't understand why Alyssa didn't fall for such an outstanding man like Jameson. Then, the target slowly moved over.

When it came close enough, Carl saw Jasper's picture on the target, and Jameson's shots had made a massive hole in Jasper's head.

"Amazing! You are such an amazing shooter, Mr. Schmidt. You have an eagle's eye." Carl clapped as he kissed Jameson's ass.

"It's too bad," Jameson said as he kept his gun.

"Too bad?"

"It's just a picture and not the actual person."



Jameson did not look at him. He simply took a white silk handkerchief to wipe his gun. "You were looking for me?"

"Mr. Schmidt, we have news about Mr. Taylor. Mr. Taylor had sought out Ms. Alyssa and Jasper tonight.

However, he did not bring Ms. Alyssa home with him." Carl's forehead was covered in cold sweat when he finished.

As he expected, Jameson's eyes turned grim. "He didn't bring Lyse with him. Is Lyse still staying at Landon's with Jasper?"

"Yes..." The tremor in Carl's voice became evident.

A grim glint flickered in Jameson's eyes. He loaded his gun and shot at the ground multiple times.

The bullet exploded under Carl's feet. He was terrified to his wits, unable to utter a word.

Jameson gasped for air violently after he finished his round of bullets. His eyes were bloodshot. "Get the car!"

It was almost midnight when Winston returned to Heightsnew Villa.

His expression was dreadful when he went there earlier, but he had since thought it through. He reflected on how his daughter

had gained some weight under Jasper's care, and his worried heart slowly settled.

Now, Winston felt slightly regretful. If he hadn't forcefully imprisoned Alyssa, she wouldn't have jumped out of the window in the

middle of the night and escaped into the violent storm.

He felt more remorseful as he thought about it.

Should anything happen to her, there wouldn't be a reason to live anymore. He would be too embarrassed to meet her mother

down under. At the end of the day, Alyssa's safety was his priority. As for that Beckett boy...

"Uncle Winston!"

Winston and Neil turned around at the voice.

They saw Jameson walking toward them with an exquisite white gift box, a friendly and warm glint flickering in his eyes.

"Jameson, why are you here?" Winston sized him up in confusion.

Jameson's heart sank, but he maintained the elegant smile on his face. "I've been waiting here for you to bring Lyse back.

"I was worried she didn't have time to eat dinner, so I brought her some food from Solana City's famous Artisan Delicacies. She

mentioned this place before and said it was her favorite restaurant. So, I."

"I didn't bring Lyse back with me. She is still with Jasper."

Winston interrupted him with an indifferent attitude. "I appreciate the kind gesture.

It is already the middle of the night. I don't

think it's appropriate for someone of your stature to wait here for so long. I think you should head back."

Jameson noticed how Winston brushed him off and panicked. He walked toward him. "Uncle Winston, do you intend to see Lyse make the same mistakes again?

"Jasper had made Lyse miserable. She had suffered so much that her body couldn't handle it. How can you stand Lyse being with such a despicable and shameless man?"

Winston narrowed his eyes and looked at Jameson with a plastered smile. "Jasper had been pestering my precious daughter again and again. I've slapped him and endangered his life. Yet, he continued to stick around my daughter. It is shameless.

"However, from what I see, he is upright in his ways and never stabbed anyone behind the back or use any malicious schemes.

He has the basic moral principles. At the very least, he is head over heels for Lyse.

## Chapter 1331

The look on Jameson's face stiffened.

Winston didn't confront him harshly. Yet, he felt every word that came from Winston's mouth was directed at him. A simmering anger in his heart caused his pale cheeks to burn.

"Uncle Winston, everything Jasper is doing is to appease and cajole Lyse."

Jameson clenched his fingers tightly. His nails were digging into his palm. He was extremely hostile toward Jasper. "If he really loved Lyse, he would have been there for her during the three years of their marriage. Lyse is such a beautiful and astounding woman. She could tug the heart of any man.

"Yet, he had turned his back and abandoned Lyse. It shows that he wasn't genuine toward Lyse. It was never love!"

"It was never love?" Winston perked his eyebrow.

"Have you ever thought about when Jasper started falling for Lyse? It was when he realized the wife he had abandoned for three years was the daughter of the owner of the KS Group after their divorce.

"Everyone knows Jasper isn't born of Mr. Javier's first wife. His mother gained her status disgracefully, so he was no different from an illegitimate child. If it weren't for Mr. Javier's firstborn falling ill, he would have never let Jasper take up such a huge responsibility to manage the Beckett Group.

"Now that he sticks to Lyse like glue, do you think his intentions are pure? Does he not harbor any malicious intent? Are you sure he has never thought of using the Taylor family's money and power to change his awkward circumstance?"

Anxiety was written on Jameson's face. He earnestly persisted, feeling as if he was about to talk his mouth off. "He forced Lyse to divorce with him to marry someone else. What he did was despicable. He hasn't been loyal the first time. How sure are you that there wouldn't be a second or third? Are you willing to use the apple of your eye to bet on Jasper's character?"

Carl listened to everything by the side. His eyebrows furrowed slightly as he carefully observed Jameson without a word.

Until now, he hadn't recognized the extent of Jameson's persuasiveness, resembling that of a snake charmer. If Jameson's eloquence was employed to distort the truth, his abilities should not be underestimated.

"Jameson, what you have done for my daughter is more telling than me as her actual father."

A smile lingered on Winston's face, yet his tone was cold. "If Jasper is exactly like you said, a person after position and power, he wouldn't have gone for my daughter, who had kept her identity hidden. He would have to marry a wealthy girl and get it done once and for all."

Jameson was rendered speechless. He found himself ensnared in his own words.

"I'm old. I can't control Lyse for the rest of my life. She chose Jasper, and that is the decision she has to live with. It will be on her if that person mistreats her. I can't possibly hang her around my pocket like a keychain, can I?"

Neil couldn't help but laugh at Winston's dark humor.

Yet, Jameson's heart brimmed with hatred. His dry and pale lips trembled as he uttered, "Uncle Winston, you..."

"If you don't want to give up on Lyse, you can go ahead and pursue her passionately. Fight for her fair and square."

Winston averted his gaze from Jameson's tense expression. He coldly uttered, "However, please refrain from seeking me out to discuss this any further. I have many children. I wouldn't live very long if I worried for all of them."

Following that, Winston and Neil passed through the entrance of Heightsnew Villa in succession. The door sealed shut, and the frigid wind that brushed past seemed like a harsh blow to Jameson's head.

After speaking to Jameson, Winston's steps were surprisingly light. "That Schmidt boy really had a way with words," he mocked.

"Exactly. You will only see a person's talent when it matters." Neil laughed. He was creatively sarcastic with his words.

"Pfft! That pipsqueak Jasper had been in the same business summits with him a couple of times. During his speech, he interchanged bilingually and spoke eloquently. Isn't he equally good at talking too?"

"Now, besides making promises and offering apologies, he only knows how to assure me he'll treat Lyse well whenever he sees me. He is slow with words. Anyone might have thought he was dumb,"

Winston mocked, shaking his head with a disgusted and scornful look in his eyes.

Neil grasped the situation and said with a smile, "Mr. Beckett may not excel in many things, but he has a talent. Mr. Jameson is

not only childhood friends with Ms. Alyssa but also a formidable love rival.

However, do you recall something Mr. Beckett said to Mr. Jameson?"

Neil grasped the need to limit the conversation to this point, as being too biased toward Jasper could backfire. He sincerely

hoped for Jasper and Alyssa to be together. At this rate, he was no different than a godfather to Alyssa.

## Chapter 1332

Winston glanced at him suspiciously. "You seem to admire Jasper a lot."

Neil stayed collected. "I think you've misunderstood what I mean. I'm just stating the fact. I've watched Alyssa grow up. I care for her too and wish she would marry well."

"Aren't you indirectly praising Jasper by saying that?"

Neil didn't dare say anything else.

Suddenly, Winston halted in his tracks and gazed out of the window. Neil, perplexed, followed his line of sight. From this vantage point, he could clearly observe the exterior of Heightsnew Villa.

With anger consuming him, Jameson violently threw the food he had brought for Alyssa to the ground.

Unsettled, he began stomping on it, reducing the meal to pieces.

"Hmm... It looks like Jameson has quite a temper." Winston sneered and left.

Neil glimpsed a completely different side of Jameson. He felt Alyssa was lucky not to have chosen to be with this hypocrite.

Winston used to shoot Jasper a cold side-eye and leave him out. Jameson never expected to find himself in the same situation.

For someone as competitive and egotistical as he was, it was a real blow to the ego and the most humiliating experience!

"M-Mr. Schmidt, please calm down."

Carl bent over to pick up the garbage on the ground and reassured, "Don't overthink it. Mr. Taylor has always liked you and wouldn't suddenly turn away from you. No matter what happens, we are still better than that scumbag, Jasper!"

"Ms. Alyssa must have made him angry today, leaving him nowhere to release his frustration. You just happened to come at the wrong time, and he couldn't help but project his anger onto you. Once Mr. Taylor has calmed down, he will remember you in a good light."

"It's different now."

A fierce glint flashed in Jameson's bloodshot eyes, resembling animal claws poised to tear someone apart alive. "Winston had

accepted Lyse and Jasper. He wouldn't meddle in it or help me anymore."  
Winston was currently the most potent wedge he could insert between them. Using Zoe to expose the truth about Alyssa being mistreated was another trump card of his.  
Even so, he couldn't destroy the bond between Alyssa and Jasper. Without him realizing it, Winston had gradually taken Jasper's side.

With a myriad of tricks up his sleeves, he found himself at the end of his rope. Back in his car, Jameson's face had become as pale as an iceberg about to break. Hesitating for a while, he eventually pulled out his phone, his fingers shaking as he dialed the man's number.  
After a while, the call was answered.

"Sir, Winston has approved of Lyse's relationship with Jasper. He won't help me anymore." Gone was Jameson's usual elegance and confidence; he now appeared meek in front of this man.

"Pfft! I told you before—if you want Ms. Alyssa, you need a strong hand to get it done."

The man didn't bother to conceal his mockery. "But you were so fixated on pretending to be this good guy in front of her, fantasizing that one day, she would leave Jasper and be with you. I actually feel sorry for your stupidity.

"If the easy way doesn't work, then it's time for the hard way. Since you can't get what you want, then destroy it. Don't let Jasper off so easily."  
Destroy her?

## Chapter 1333

But Alyssa was the love of his life. How could Jameson bear to destroy her?  
"Have you thought about what your next move is?" A subtle threat was woven into the man's languid voice.  
"Sir, give me one last chance!" Jameson's face was as pale as a ghost.  
A sinister vibe emanated from Jameson like a demon struggling to escape hell.  
"Isn't your research center working on a drug that

can induce heart paralysis? Could you provide me with one of those?"

"Hmm? What do you plan to do with that?" The man laughed mockingly. "Don't tell me you plan to use one of those on yourself."

"Mr. Schmidt, you are overestimating yourself. Haven't you stuck enough needles over the years? The drug hasn't passed its clinical trials yet. The risk is huge."

"I know. But this is my only shot. I want to bet everything on it." Jameson's eyes were bloodshot. He was no longer thinking straight.

The man sighed, "You still have so many years ahead of you and many other opportunities. Everything you do now is merely for a woman. You don't need to handle it with such high stakes."

The man was serious. "Plus, you are Alyssa's most hated person now. Wouldn't it go in her favor if something happens to you?"

"It's not for me."

"Oh?"

"Pity and guilt are the most difficult for one to overcome."

A shadow crossed Jameson's eyes. "Lyse is a kind woman. I want her to feel indebted for the rest of her life. That way, I can keep her by my side."

After the conversation, Alyssa and Jasper returned to their rooms to rest.

Landon knew Lauren was asleep, so he walked toward the study, ready to tackle a wave of work before resting. He was a completely different person.

In the past, even if the earth were to disintegrate, it wouldn't have deterred him from sleeping. Now, he found it impossible to sleep without addressing work matters. All his efforts were geared toward securing a good future for Lauren.

"Mr. Landon."

Angelina's voice came from behind him. Landon quickly turned. "Aren't you turning in to rest? I told you not to bother me and keep an eye on Madam Lauren. If she wakes up feeling thirsty, no one will be there to attend to her."

Angelina pursed her lips and said softly, "I have something to report from tonight. I think you should keep an eye on Mr. Cyrus."

When he came today, he interacted with Madam Lauren when I wasn't paying attention. I can't say he likes her, but I sense that he fancies Madam Lauren."

She didn't tell him about how Lauren mistook Cyrus for him and went to hug him. She feared he would visit Cyrus with a knife in his hand should he learn about that.

While she may have skirted around the main point, the information acted like a spark. Landon went ballistic and charged toward the bedroom with reddened eyes.

"Hey, Mr. Landon!" Angelina frantically grabbed him. "Madam Lauren is asleep. You would wake her if you go to her now!

Besides, Madam Lauren only has eyes for you. She doesn't like Mr. Cyrus in any way. Please don't be angry at her."

Landon looked at her anxious face. He was frustrated, yet he couldn't help but frown and smile wryly.

"What are you thinking, Angelina? Do you take me for someone this petty?"

The look on Angelina's face confirmed that was how she felt.

"No one knows how much I love Lauren. You know it fair well. Plus, I trust Lauren. I will always trust her unconditionally."

Landon took a deep breath, his gaze softening as he contemplated Lauren. "I haven't seen her the entire day. I just miss her a lot. I'm only going to kiss her. Nothing else."

## Chapter 1334

Landon slowly walked into the room. He was worried about waking the love of his life from her dreams, so he took his shoes off and went into the room in just his socks.

Lauren was curled under the blanket on the huge and spacious bed. Only her head protruded out. Her long black hair was scattered like ink dissipating on a white paper.

Landon sat by the bedside, gazing deeply at his wife's pretty face. He brushed away a strand of hair from her face with his fingers.

He was no longer looking around for anyone else. He only had eyes for Lauren.



"I can't believe so much had happened while I was away for such a short time." Landon gently caressed Lauren's smooth face with his coarse fingertips, continuing to trace her lips and beautiful neckline. "I always believed I was the only man in the world who had you on his mind. Your charm exceeds my wildest imagination. I won't take you out anymore. "What am I supposed to do if someone fancies you? You can't imagine how much I couldn't stand what happened tonight. If that rascal wasn't Alyssa's brother, I would have treated him like a punching bag." Unconsciously, he tightened his grip. Lauren's eyes fluttered slightly as she let out a soft moan. Panicking, Landon quickly released his grip, fearing he might disturb her peaceful sleep. Then, Lauren turned over. She lay flat on the bed. She had kicked her blanket down, revealing half of her body. She was in a spaghetti-strapped nightgown, but her nightgown became disheveled as she shifted on the bed. The delicate contours of her shoulders and the alluring curves of her bosom peeked out from beneath the confines of her nightgown, as if yearning to break free. Landon was so consumed by lust that his shoulders shuddered. He was about to lose it. "Hmm... Do you really like my painting?" Lauren murmured in her sleep. He could hear every word in the quiet room. "Do you really like my painting?" Landon was certain Lauren wasn't asking him this question. Then, who was she talking to? "Cyrus." Landon felt a surge of heat as his mind went blank. The next moment, he moved atop Lauren, kissing her with an intensity that seemed like he was about to rip her lips off. The commotion finally roused Lauren from her sleep. She was initially mortified, but when she realized it was Landon, she relaxed her entire body. Hooking both arms around the back of his neck, she gently eased the intensity of the kiss, melting away the anger between their lips and tongues. Her nightgown was nowhere to be found.

Lauren had always compromised with Landon. It didn't matter when or where. If he wanted it, she would give it to him.

Two bodies swayed and rocked against each other for an extended period, lost in the rhythm of their shared passion.

Landon released Lauren only when she couldn't bear it any longer, whimpering and scratching his back. Men were often insatiable creatures. They sought comfort in intimacy when happy and craved it even more when upset.

"Lauren, what did the rascal do to you? Hmm?" Landon was still on top of her—a fiery possessiveness burned in his eyes.

"Landon, what did I do wrong?"

Lauren could sense he was angry, but she was clueless as to what she did wrong. Tears welled in her eyes, overwhelmed by a sense of injustice and panic.

Landon couldn't bear to see her cry. His heart felt like a knife cut it. He immediately pulled her into his arms and soothed her.

"It's okay. It's alright. You didn't do anything wrong, Lauren. I am the one at fault. It's okay now. Let's go to bed."

They managed to survive until daylight.

Lauren slept as soundly as a baby. Meanwhile, Landon was like a father who had stayed up all night to coax his crying child. He

went downstairs with a pair of eyes shadowed and marked with exhaustion.

Alyssa and Jasper slept well the previous night and woke up early.

As they wrapped up their morning run and freshened up with a shower, they prepared to sit down for breakfast. Please bookmark site [novelxo.org](http://novelxo.org) to read latest content. If you want to read light novel please visit [allnovelnext.com](http://allnovelnext.com) to read fastest content.

Alyssa sat leisurely at the dining table and ate bread. Jasper had an apron on as he attentively fried eggs in the kitchen.

The atmosphere was warm. It felt like they had been married for many years.

The jealousy from the previous night lingered in Landon's eyes as he watched them, tearfully envious

## Chapter 1335

Alyssa saw Landon approaching them, looking weak and sickly. She teased him immediately, "Gosh, Mr. Harper, what's wrong with you? Were you doing hard labor in your bedroom last night?"

"I... Never mind. Forget about it." He sighed in frustration. Where to start?

He couldn't possibly speak ill of Alyssa's brother in front of her, or he'd land Jasper in trouble as well. As Jasper's brother from another mother, he didn't have the heart to do so.

Alyssa knew he must have something on his mind, but she did not press on if he was reluctant to divulge.

"Do you want food? I'll make some for you," Jasper offered, turning around to look at Landon while busy with the cooking.

"Nah. I don't have appetite." Landon wandered to the fridge and opened the door to grab a bottle of water. Then, he downed the entire drink.

Crumpling the empty bottle, he took a deep breath before announcing, "Lyse, Jasper, I will register my marriage with Lauren today."

Caught by surprise, they gasped, "What? Today?"

"Yes, today." Landon's eyes burned with passion. His voice broke. "I've thought

over it. The more I delay it, the more problems arise. I don't care if my family approves of my marriage. I'll get it registered for now.

"After that's done, Lauren and I will be legal spouses-she'll be my wife and the matriarch of the Harper Group! Even if Grandpa is against our decision, he has no choice but to let it go. Once I'm in charge of the Harper Group, I'll throw a grand wedding for Lauren. She'll surely understand my decision."

Jasper furrowed his brows, his attention completely diverted from the sunny-side-up eggs now burnt in the pan.

Landon went on, "Jasper, I'll go get my birth certificate from my mom soon. What about Lauren's? Can you get it by today?"

"Landon Harper, what the heck are you thinking? You're acting weird today," Alyssa chided him with a stern look.

"Why? All I want is to marry Lauren. Look at your faces. I was expecting applause and support," Landon retorted, his brows contorting in anxiety.

"Landon, you've been dating Lauren for a while. You were able to keep your calm before, but why did you lose it today?" Jasper

turned off the stove and cast a worrying glance at his best friend.

He added, "By the way, our birth certificates are with Javier. If you demand to get it from him, he surely won't hand it over to you.

"After all, you greatly embarrassed him at the Jesseltons' event for Lyse's sake. You know Javier and his pettiness. If you ask

him something, he'll take the chance to make you jump through hoops.

"If you upset him, he might arrange for Lauren to marry another. It's not like he cares about the Harpers because you are still

dealing with the fallout from Zoe's action. To be clear, Javier does not want to be associated with the Harpers anymore."

"I..." Landon curled his fist.

"By the way, have you resolved your family conflict?" Alyssa addressed Landon with a seriousness that rivaled the couple's

parents. "Do your grandpa and your mom approve of your marriage?

"If you elope with Lauren, aren't you worried that your grandpa will retract your appointment as the group president? What if your

Uncle Preston takes advantage of the situation to eliminate you?.

"You're Cornelius' only grandson, and he cherishes you like no other. How would he perceive Lauren if you eloped with her? Your family will only look down on her."

"Lauren's my wife, my lover! No one is allowed to look down on her! "Landon bellowed, unable to accept her words. She made it sound like he was defenseless.

She shook her head disappointingly. "Landon, I don't doubt your love for Lauren, but have you thought things through? What do you want for yourself, and what kind of life would you want Lauren to live?

"You're currently faced with a dilemma-choose Lauren or Harper Group. You can't have your cake and eat it. If you fail to helm the company, you'll disappoint your father.

"If you insist on staying with Lauren, you need to mentally prepare yourself to be removed from the company leadership. Are you really going to let go of something in your sight?"

"Why can't I have both? I want to lead Harper Group, and I want to stay with Lauren!" His eyes twitched as he glared at Alyssa.

"No one's stopping you from dating Lauren. What you need to do now is keep your calm. Victory is on the horizon, so please don't mess it up," Alyssa argued with a frown, studying his face. "What happened between you and Lauren last night? Spit it out, and we'll be your judge. You're only going to go crazy if you keep everything to yourself."

"We're more worried that you'd do something rash," Jasper chimed in and served Alyssa breakfast.

He was more skilled in the kitchen than Mrs. Rosie now and surprisingly enjoyed the chore.

He added, "I messed up the breakfast, but eat it while it's hot." His handsome face was a stark contrast to the apron he wore. He looked comical yet sexy at the same time.

Alyssa grinned and wrapped an arm around his neck, giving him a kiss on the cheek as a reward. "There's your reward." She playfully tapped his chin with her fingers.

He responded enthusiastically to her kiss, savoring the sweetness of her breath. In front of the couple, Landon sat dejected, like he had been cuckolded. He confessed, "I have a love rival."

"A love rival?" Alyssa rested her cheek on her palm while feeding Jasper blueberries. She mused, "It's quite unfathomable for Landon Harper to have a love rival. That's new." Jasper snickered. "Lauren's living a secluded life because you're overprotective. She doesn't have a chance to meet with anyone outside—it's just you and your secretary. She doesn't even have a healthy social life, so what's all that talk about a love rival? You must be dreaming."

"Isn't that right?" Landon slammed a fist on the table as his voice broke from the tension.

He recalled the scene from last night where Lauren mumbled the name of this guy, Cyrus, while sleeping in his arms. How could she call out the name of another man in her dreams?

His heart immediately shattered into pieces.

Alyssa shot him a piercing glance. "Do you mean my brother, Cyrus Taylor?" Jasper froze. He grappled with the far-fetched notion, struggling to imagine Lauren and Cyrus together.

Landon widened his eyes, looking amazed. "Oh, Lyse, how did you know? Are you God?"

"Hah, drop it." Feeling speechless, she told him, "You're an open book—I can tell from your face. I saw you standing across from Cyrus yesterday, staring at him fiercely, and I immediately knew something was wrong.

"But Mr. Harper, you shouldn't look down on the gentlemen of the Taylor family. None of them would ever get involved with unavailable women. You shouldn't imagine him as a love rival just because he spoke to Lauren."

"Cyrus isn't that type of man. Landon, you shouldn't even suspect Lyse's family to start with." Jasper hugged Alyssa by the waist as he pondered the absurdity of Landon's accusation.

Landon sighed and held his tongue out of fear of sounding like a disgruntled housewife.

"Ah! No wonder you're in a hurry to register your marriage with Lauren. Looks like the 'love rival' has plunged you into a crisis."



Alyssa immediately read Landon's mind. "Seriously? Did you lose your head over a non-issue? Are you a child?"

Landon pressed his lips sheepishly.

"Let's have a careful discussion about the marriage in the future." Jasper put on a serious face and advised Landon, "Your priority should be sorting out the mess in your family. Once you've established your power in the company, everything will fall into place."

Despite Jasper's advice, Landon felt bothered. He had acknowledged Lauren as his future spouse, but the same might not be true for Lauren. He worried that, given her naivety, she might fall for the tricks of another man.

That was his punishment for being too deep in love.

When Jasper and Alyssa finished breakfast, Xavier returned from his mission and exclaimed, "Madam, you're spot on! David Schmidt has been arrested!"

Casting an admirable glance at Alyssa, Xavier professed his amazement, "The media has swarmed the entrance to the police station. The police have gathered evidence of David Schmidt sexually assaulting multiple women, two of them minors!"

"Fuck! He's the scum of the earth!" Landon slammed the table indignantly.

Similarly, Jasper was disgusted to learn about David's reproachable behavior.

Besides that, he was amazed by Alyssa's

capability. Holding her shoulders and carefully pulling her into a hug, he praised,

"Lyse, Landon was right. You're like God. You're wittier and prettier than everyone around."

"Pfft! You sweet talker," she playfully chided him but secretly enjoyed the compliments. "Too bad David was caught in action. I

heard a few reporters on stakeout had live streamed him completely naked, having no time to blur out the nudity!

"Alas, I missed the live stream. How exciting would it be?"

Jasper looked amused by Alyssa's often surprisingly bold remarks, which he once found hard to accept. Now, he thoroughly enjoyed her snarky behavior. He'd much prefer to date a sassy woman.

"The videos online have blurred out the nudity. If you want, I'll get you the raw video," Landon suggested with sincerity and winked at her.

Jasper and Alyssa, rendered speechless, wondered if Landon was truly out of the situation or simply feigning naivete.

"Now, Daisy and David Schmidt are done for. Josh has lost two of his right-hand men." A frosty expression unfolded on Jasper's

face. "He must be panicking now since he has lost his support pillars.

Next, he'll be fighting Jameson head-on for power in the Schmidt Group.

"Josh might be cunning, but that's all he has going for him—he lacks the talent to helm a company.

Watching him fight Jameson will be as exciting as a cage fight."

Frowning, Alyssa did not seem pleased by the imminent victory. She cautioned,

"Let's not get ahead of ourselves. Josh Schmidt

is way more of a threat than we think.

"You know what? I reached out to Jonah yesterday to get him to purchase massive amounts of the

Schmidt Group stocks at a low price to take control of the company.

"To our surprise, someone from the Schmidt Group had pulled the strings, injecting a large amount of capital to stabilize the

volatile stock price. That's why Jonah failed to purchase anything."

Jasper knitted his brows, pondering, "Was that Jameson Schmidt's work?"

"He was able to sway the local election results from far in Kontina. Do you think he can't manipulate the stock price? After 15

years of preparation in Kontina, he must be ready for a power grab in the Schmidt Group." Closing her eyes, she gritted her teeth

and vowed, "We can't let him take control of the Schmidt Group no matter what it takes."

"It's fine even if we fail to stop him." Jasper gazed at Alyssa tenderly and planted a kiss on her forehead. "A greater humiliation

would be destroying his beloved Schmidt Group from within."

Her eyes shimmered as she nodded in agreement.

"By the way, there's something else I'd like to inform you," Xavier suddenly interjected.

Feeling thirsty, he had no time to take a sip of water. He began, "I'm not sure if this is worth reporting, though. J-Jameson Schmidt just bought a private jet and got it delivered to Solana City last night.

"Just... Wow. I checked out the photos captured on my phone. It's such a luxurious jet, and it's the latest model compared to Mr. Beckett's jet. Jameson must be filthy rich."

Looking upset at Xavier's comparison, Jasper pouted. "If you like private jets that much, you should work for Jameson Schmidt instead and jet around.

## Chapter 1337

Xavier inhaled sharply and hurriedly replied, "No! Jetting around sounds cool, but there's no way I'm risking my life for that!"

"Come on, Jasper. We all know Xavier's loyal. Why fuss over a jet?" cooed Alyssa as she brushed her fingertip across Jasper's jawline. She squinted, looking regal and haughty. "I'll get you a better jet than Jameson's for your birthday this year. How does that sound?"

Their exchange was envy-inducing. Alyssa was indeed a Taylor, having the wealth to buy a private jet as a gift.

Jasper widened his eyes and held her hand with a straight face. "Lyse, I'm yours, but I'm not a kept man. I should be the one who buys it for you."

"Pfft! Don't overthink it. Everything we own belongs to each other. Let's not waste time on nickel-and- dime stuff," she remarked generously, much to the envy of Landon and Xavier.

Their interests lay not in a potential Sugar Mommy but in their shared enthusiasm for cars, tanks, and jets.

Jasper shook his head bitterly. "Lyse, you don't have to buy me anything. You've given me enough. I even have a room to keep all the gifts you've bought me. Every time I get home, I'll visit the room and check out the gifts repeatedly."

During the time he lost Alyssa, he acted abnormally akin to a hoarder. He'd always stay in the room, even spending nights in

there.

He was known for his composure, but his longing for Alyssa drove him crazy in private. It was a tumultuous period for him.

Staring affectionately at him, she caressed his cheek with trembling fingers, which betrayed the calmness on her face.

Jasper added, "Besides, I don't need any gifts. You're the best gift I've ever had." It was not his first time confessing to her, but

every time, he said it with the same level of sincerity as the first.

"You fool..." Alyssa's voice trailed off. She expressed her love by sealing his lips with a kiss.

"Ahem! I must be an incredibly senseless guy. That doesn't sound at all romantic to me, just perverted," taunted Landon.

He had goosebumps from the thought of Jasper swooning over Alyssa's gifts.

They were interrupted by a flurry of urgent footsteps. Angelina dashed down the stairs and hurried to Landon. "Mr. Harper, we found Inigo Montiye!"

"What? Did he show up?" Alyssa and Jasper sat upright at the same time, resembling each other in their excited reaction. They

finally tracked down the villain after searching high and low in Solana City.

Landon started blabbering due to the excitement, "S-So, where's that jerk right now? Have we not taken him down?"

Angelina shook her head with a heavy expression. "My apologies, Mr. Harper.

Inigo Montiye was not alone. When we

surrounded him, we got into a clash with his men and suffered injuries. Two of our men are still in critical condition."

Alyssa and Jasper looked astonished by the development. Landon growled in disbelief, "We're in

Solana City, not Shelland Island! I can't believe that we got defeated on our own turf. Didn't they call for reinforcements?"

"Of course they did, but it was too late!"

## Chapter 1338

Angelina's face was tight with anger. "We had the upper hand initially, but we never thought that Inigo Montiyé had called for backup! They were skilled in combat and ready to kill. It was a miracle that our men came home alive."

Landon punched on the table, his knuckles cracking. Not only did they fail to capture Inigo Montiyé, but the clash nearly cost the lives of Landon's men. Landon's ego was badly bruised.

"Mm. Landon... What's wrong? Who made you upset?"

Frozen in shock, everyone turned to the stairs and found Lauren standing there.

Wearing a crumpled white camisole dress and hugging a bear that Alyssa bought for her, she groggily rubbed her eyes, looking innocent.

While she was speaking, one of the straps slid off her shoulder, offering a glimpse of her fair complexion. She was very close to exposing herself. Her neck and collarbone area were filled with hickeys, evidence of the passionate night she had spent with

Landon.

Xavier quickly shut his eyes in fear while Jasper shifted his gaze to Alyssa, sweat dotting his forehead.

Meanwhile, Landon felt his blood pressure rising as he screamed internally.

Running over to his careless fiancée, he pulled her into a hug. She buried her face in his shoulder. Peeking at him, she purred, "Landon, please don't be upset. I don't like to see you upset."

"I'm not upset. I'm happy. Let's go. Back to the room!" Worried, he lifted Lauren and headed upstairs in huge strides.

He whispered into her ear, "Remember, you should never expose your skin to anyone else except when you're with me!"

After the couple left, an awkward silence hung in the air of the living room. Still reeling from the shock, Xavier defended himself,

"I-I saw nothing just now! Mr. Beckett, you know it too."

Angelina's face was drained of color upon witnessing the blunder. Too anxious to relay the updates to Landon, she momentarily took her eyes off Lauren, leading to the situation.

"Don't worry, Angelina," Alyssa gently comforted her. "It must be tough on you to take care of Lauren alone. You know she's just like a child most of the time, don't you? Making mistakes is part of being human. If Landon lashes out at you, Jasper and I will have your back." Jasper nodded in agreement.

"Thank you, Ms. Alyssa and Mr. Beckett. I'm fine, though. It's Mr. Harper that's having a tough time."

Angelina pressed her dry lips together. "He's the one who'll love and care for Madam forever. My sacrifice is nothing compared to His.

### Chapter 1339

Alyssa lowered her gaze and kept her silence. Noting her dampening mood, Jasper held and caressed her hand. "Lyse, I know you feel sorry for Lauren, but Landon loves her. With his abilities and family background, he is more than capable of protecting her."

"Yes, I know that. In fact, I am grateful to him." Alyssa's gratitude had nothing to do with Landon's acceptance of Lauren. She was thankful to God that Landon was able to see the good in Lauren and patiently stayed by her side.

Shortly after, Landon returned to the living room, appearing more fatigued than ever. Jasper released a deep sigh. "Landon, that must've been tough for you."

"She's my partner. I'll do anything for her." Landon did not blame Angelina for the oversight and resumed the conversation,

"Where were we? Oh, right! I thought it over—Inigo Montiye is a wanted man who has no power in Solana City. How could he possibly bribe the locals into helping him out?

"Could this be part of Jameson's plan? Is he secretly protecting Inigo Montiye?"

The same idea had occurred to Alyssa and Jasper as well. After all, Inigo had once answered to Jeffrey

Synder in the Shelland Island ambush against Jasper and Jonah.

To Jameson, Inigo must be an important witness who could wreak havoc. Jameson would never allow

Inigo to fall into Alyssa and Jasper's hands—that would be shooting himself in the foot.

"Since Inigo Montiye showed up, we now know he's still alive and within Solana City. If he's still in the city, there's no way he can escape. It's a matter of time before we get him."

Jasper's eyes were as deep as an abyss. He declared, filled with resentment, "Lives are more important than anything. I do not wish to see any innocent lives taken by bastards like Jameson Schmidt and Inigo Montiye—it's not worth it at all."

Landon shared the same bitter feelings. Jasper might appear distant on the surface, but Landon knew he was more hot-blooded than anyone else.

"Um... I have a question," Xavier suddenly interrupted while raising his hand.

"What it?" Landon, Alyssa, and Jasper responded in unison.

"I can't figure out why Jameson Schmidt would expend all the effort on protecting Inigo Montiye. He's not even in Kontina; he's on his turf. Wouldn't it be easier to silence Inigo Montiye by killing him?"

"Inigo Montiye isn't alone in this. Coming from a military background, he has a mercenary working for him, and each could easily take on ten men.

"Besides, the Harper and Beckett Group have been searching the area for Inigo Montiye and his men.

The customs, train lines, and ports are under tight surveillance. If Jameson Schmidt gets into a conflict with Inigo Montiye and his men, the news will reach us. They would be exposing themselves."

Angelina, who was more calculative, added, "Inigo Montiye and his men are hardcore. Jameson Schmidt would only invite trouble if he confronted them."

Xavier insisted, "But Jameson Schmidt is cunning. He can surely think of a way to get rid of Inigo Montiye quietly. That guy's just a ticking time bomb to him."

Xavier's casual remark struck Alyssa. She connected all the dots and exclaimed, "Damn it! Jameson will make a move against Inigo Montiye!"

