

Returning from the Dead His Secret Lover

Chapter 1606

Chapter 1606 Shocking Discovery

Vivian agreed to it in the end.

She had always been striving to come up with better designs, so she did not want to miss out on such a great opportunity.

When she was brought before the king, she was surprised to see the handsome blond young man standing beside him.

Other than his hair color, his facial features were the same as the man in her memories.

How is this possible?

Vivian was overwhelmed with shock.

"Vivian?" Not wanting her to come off as rude in front of the royal family, Adalyn called out to her when she noticed her spacing out.

That snapped Vivian out of her train of thoughts, and she quickly regained her composure.

"Are you all right? This young man here is Prince Jason. Be sure to mind your manners."

"Got it, Lady Adalyn," Vivian said as she lowered her gaze and quickly curtsied to the prince and the king.

Unbeknownst to them, the king had already heard about her from the old duke, so he did not mind her earlier discourtesy. Besides, Vivian's graceful movements and beautiful

appearance reflected her great upbringing, even though she was dressed in very plain clothes.

Flashing her a smile, he asked, "So, this is the daughter of the Jadesons?"

"Yes, Your Majesty," the old duke quickly replied and nodded.

The king stepped forward and eyed Vivian from head to toe as he said, "Young lady, did you know that your father, Mr. Jadeson, is an acquaintance of mine?"

"Huh? My daddy?" Vivian was astonished.

"That's right. When your father was in charge of your country's economy, he wanted to collaborate with us in certain financial industries. He came to me with his business proposal, and we had a pleasant partnership."

The king seemed to be in a good mood when he brought that up.

The crowd was astounded by Vivian's identity. The fact that this girl's father was able to discuss business with His Majesty means he must be of a fairly high status! Moreover, His Majesty even said that her father was in charge of the country's economy!

With that in mind, they finally came to believe that Vivian was an actual princess.

Even Vivian was a little surprised to hear that her father had once collaborated with the king.

"Um... Please forgive me if I have offended you in any way, Mr. King!"

"Hahahaha!"

The king burst out laughing in amusement.

This young lady sure is adorable! She even called me "Mr. King"!

He then turned toward his son, who was standing behind him, and said, "Jason, why don't you show her around the place? Your task for tonight is to take good care of her."

Vivian felt her heart skip a beat when she heard his words.

Coincidentally, she was hoping to ask the prince some questions in order to get things straight.

Soon, the old duke and his wife led the other royal family members to the main hall, leaving Vivian alone with Jason.

A moment later, she watched blankly as the prince approached. Those rosy lips and gemstone-like eyes... My goodness, he really does look the same as Brother Cal!

"Come on," he said in a neutral tone as he stood before her.

His indifferent expression brought up her old memories of Calvin, and she found herself spacing out even more.

Brother Cal's personality, too, was always a little cold. I had to pester him a long time before he would carry me and sing me songs...

Her eyes reddened slightly at the thought of that.

"W-What's wrong? We don't have to go on this tour if you don't feel like it."

Flustered, Jason quickly pulled out a white handkerchief from his coat pocket and handed it to her.

Vivian's mind was all over the place at that point.

I must be seeing things! How is this possible? Brother Cal has been dead for so many years! How could he possibly be standing before me now?

By the time she snapped out of her trance, she had been led to another hall where plenty of young aristocrats was mingling in.

A commotion broke out among the crowd when they saw the prince with an Astorian woman.

"Who is she, Prince Jason?"

"Yeah, we've never seen her before! Is she a new friend of yours?"

"No, she isn't." Jason denied it immediately.

Due to his royal lineage and status, most of the men were dying to lick his boots, while women wished to go to bed with him.

As such, they were relieved to hear that he did not even see Vivian as a friend.

Vivian, on the other hand, did not mind it at all.

All she wanted to know was why he looked so similar to Calvin.

Ignoring the looks of contempt from those around her, she followed closely behind Jason as she asked, "May I ask you a question, Prince Jason?"

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Chapter 1607

Chapter 1607 Get Things Straight

"What is it?"

Vivian was unsure if he was only being gentle toward her because of his father's instructions, but she decided to voice her question anyway. "Well, you look really handsome, so... I just wanted to ask if your appearance is natural..."

She kept her bright eyes fastened on him despite the undivided attention they were receiving from everyone else.

After a brief pause, the prince, seemingly older than her, wore a half-smile and replied, "Yes, it is. However, I have to say that I'm surprised, Ms. Hayes. Is it common for girls these days to express their liking for guys in such a bold fashion?"

Vivian went scarlet instantly.

What the... Since when did I say I like him? I only asked because he looks way too similar to Brother Cal!

"N-No! That's not what I meant! I just... I just think you look really similar to a friend of mine, that's all!" she stammered nervously.

"Is that so?"

"Yeah, you look exactly like him. The only difference is that he's Astorian, and you're Epean," Vivian replied honestly.

She kept her eyes glued to his face the entire time as if she wanted to burn his image into her mind.

No matter how hard I try, I can never seem to get over Brother Cal... He truly is the one that got away...

Although Jason was a little annoyed by her incessant staring, he kept his cool and patiently denied ever being acquainted with her.

"I assure you that my appearance is one-hundred-percent natural. If you don't believe me, I can show you pictures from my childhood. I have a photo album back at my place."

The prince did not truly mean it, but Vivian readily took him up on his offer.

"Really?" she exclaimed, her eyes lighting up with joy.

The two of them left Exerine Palace half an hour later, and Jason personally drove her to the royal residence.

Little did Vivian know that a cab pulled up outside the palace the moment she got into the car.

A young man wearing a hoodie then stepped out of the cab and soon made his way into the palace.

The reason Vivian was determined to see Jason's photo album was because she wanted to know why he looked exactly like Calvin.

Calvin was Sebastian's most trusted assistant, and he died a tragic death from saving her father's life. Afterward, Sebastian and Sasha both endured a lot of hardship in order to protect Vivian and the country as a whole.

Therefore, Vivian was no longer the ignorant and naïve little girl she used to be.

Although she was still kind and pure-hearted, she could tell right from wrong and had become a wiser person overall.

That was especially the case after Ian got betrayed by his best friend half a year ago.

They soon arrived at the royal residence.

"Wait here; I'll go get the photo album," Jason said as he led her to the living room before heading upstairs.

The residence was mostly empty as the royal family was attending the old duke's birthday banquet at the palace, so Vivian began exploring the living room around her.

"Huh? Who is this?" she mumbled to herself when she saw a picture of a young soldier in a photo frame.

The man was dressed in military uniform and held a saber in his hand. However, his facial features were well-defined and heavily resembled that of the king's.

Could this man also be the king's son? Vivian thought to herself as she picked up the photo frame for a closer look.

"That's my older brother. That photo was taken when he joined the military," Jason explained when he came downstairs and saw what she was doing.

"Ah, I'm sorry! I just thought it was you in the photo, so I wanted to get a better look at it!" Vivian quickly put the photo frame back where she found it.

"It's all right. Here, I brought you the photo album. By the way, how old is your friend? Do you have a picture of him that I can see? I'm really curious as to what he looks like! I'm surprised to hear that I have a doppelganger," he said while handing her the photo album.

Vivian lowered her head in response.

She did not have a picture of Calvin as she was only six when he died.

The only memento she had of him was an eagle-shaped cufflink that she wore as a pendant on her neck.

As she flipped through the photo album, surprise inundated her.

Oh, my gosh! Prince Jason really has had the same facial features since he was a child! These photos taken on each of his birthdays are proof that he's telling the truth. He looks even similar to Brother Cal at the age of eighteen that it's like they're clones or something! How is this possible? Could it be that he is actually Brother Cal?

Vivian felt her heart racing at the thought of that, but she was quick to dismiss that possibility as Jason was only twenty years old.

If Brother Cal were still alive, he would have been in his thirties by now! It can't be him then.

The whole event tied her up in knots. As she rapidly flipped through the photo album, she suddenly spotted a photo of a black-haired Astorian woman.

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Chapter 1608

Chapter 1608 He Came To Her Rescue

"Who is this?"

"That's my mother. She's home right now. Would you like to meet her?" Jason asked her amiably.

Huh? Isn't the king's wife an Epean woman? I remember seeing her on television, so why is he calling this Astorian woman his mother? Vivian thought, bewildered.

Her train of thoughts was interrupted by the click-clack of high heels behind them. The second she heard those sounds, she looked over her shoulder and saw a gorgeous Astorian woman walking toward them gracefully.

"Mother!" Jason ran up to greet her as soon as he saw her.

In the meantime, Vivian stared blankly at her while frozen in place. She felt a chill run down her spine when she saw the woman had dark green pupils, which was an extremely rare trait.

The image of a terrifying creature instantly surfaced in her mind.

Those eyes... They look like that of a snake!

"Did you bring a friend home, Jason?" the woman asked.

Her voice sounded so mellow and charming that it gave Vivian goosebumps all over.

Jason held the woman's hand to his mouth and gave it a kiss as he replied with a nod, "Yes. She's the daughter of the Jadesons. Father told me to bring her over for a tour."

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"The daughter of the Jadesons?" The Astorian woman shifted her gaze toward Vivian and scrutinized her from head to toe as she continued, "Are you referring to Mr. Jadeson? The man who approached your father for a business collaboration back then?"

For some reason, her gaze reminded Vivian of a slithering snake, making the latter's hair stand on end.

"Yes."

"I see."

The woman finally broke into a smile before walking over to Vivian.

Reaching out her perfectly manicured hands to hold Vivian's, she sat her down on the couch next to them.

"This is a rare occasion indeed! Don't worry. We have a long-standing acquaintance with your father, so feel free to make yourself at home!" she said with a smile, but it only made Vivian tense up even further.

How on earth am I supposed to make myself at home? I'm already feeling uncomfortable from your snake-like cold hands! The last thing I want to do is spend another second in this place!

With that in mind, Vivian forced a smile on her face as she replied, "I am terribly sorry to intrude on you so suddenly like this, ma'am."

"Oh, don't you worry about that! By the way, how did you get to know Jason? Did you attend the party at Exerine Palace earlier?"

"Yes, I design dresses for Lady Adalyn. She invited me over to the party and introduced me to His Majesty as well as Prince Jason," Vivian replied honestly, all while careful to make no mention of her true reason for coming over.

Although she did not really know what was going on, she could not shake the feeling that something was off. A voice inside her head kept urging her to get out of there as quickly as possible.

“Um, anyway, I think I should probably head back now, ma’am. I don’t want to keep Lady Adalyn waiting,” she then said.

“Come, now... There’s no need to leave in such a hurry. You’re a student at Royal Academy, right? You can just give Lady Adalyn a call and tell her not to wait for you. Jason can send you back later.”

Not only did the woman refuse to let her leave, but her gaze also fell upon the photo album that Vivian was flipping through earlier, much to the latter’s terror.

“Why did you bring this downstairs, Jason?” she asked.

Standing before his mother, Jason recounted everything that had happened. “She said I looked like a friend of hers, so I brought her over to show her my photo album.”

An eerie silence ensued as the woman did not speak another word. Instead, she let her gaze fall upon Vivian’s face again.

Despite the smile hovering on her lips, her green eyes were like that of a predator that had found its prey, and Vivian could not help but cast her eyes downward.

This woman is so terrifying!

“Who does he look like?” Jason’s mother asked.

“I... Please don’t get the wrong idea, ma’am. You see, I-I actually made that up as an excuse to hang out with Prince Jason because he’s so handsome...”

Vivian came up with that excuse on the fly after racking her brain.

However, the woman was not convinced by it in the slightest. She then reached out all of a sudden and yanked Vivian’s pendant off her neck.

“You—”

“Hey! Have you got a death wish, Daphne?”

Just as Vivian paled in the face of the woman’s vicious countenance, a slender figure showed up at the residence’s front door.

He was emanating such a terrifying murderous aura that the woman shuddered and dropped the pendant.

“Kurt!” Vivian shouted as she threw herself into his arms like a scared little girl and hugged him as tightly as she could.

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Chapter 1609

Chapter 1609 Unknown Secret

After a few minutes of complete silence, Jason and Daphne watched as Kurt retracted his sharp gaze and hugged Vivian.

“Don’t be scared,” he consoled in a tone much gentler than before.

That sudden transition formed such a huge contrast that he looked like a completely different person from earlier.

At that sight, Daphne, the Astorian woman, trembled again before she mustered the courage and asked in a shaky voice, “H-How do you know my name? A-Are you from Elysium too?”

“It doesn’t matter who I am. You should be more worried about your own safety, Daphne. If you want to live, I suggest you destroy that face!” Kurt snarled as he fastened his eyes on her again, striking a greater fear into her heart.

"No... This face belongs to him!" the woman protested when she noticed him sweeping his sharp gaze toward her son.

"Is it really his, though? You're the former high priest of Elysium, yet you betrayed the tribe and stole the face of the king's son! Did you really think you could escape his clutches simply by hiding here?" Kurt questioned, narrowing his eyes.

He did not move much as he was holding Vivian in his arms, but Daphne could see a gloomy look in his eyes when he said that. That ice-cold darkness resembled a terrifying abyss that destroyed everything it sucked in.

Daphne fell into despair and slumped to the floor.

Not only does he know about my identity as the former high priest of Elysium, but he also knows I betrayed the tribe and escaped! Who on earth is this guy? How does he know so much about my past? I've been living a peaceful life here for twenty years, so how does a teenager like him know such details about me?

"W-Who are you?" she asked in a trembling voice after a long moment of silence.

That time around, Kurt did not answer her question. With a swift flick of his wrist, a gleaming blade flew out of his hand.

In the next second, a sharp pain tore through Jason's face. He instinctively held a hand against his cheek, only to see blood flowing out of the cracks between his fingers.

"Jason!"

Vivian leaned against Kurt's chest when they got into the car, her mind still in a daze as it tried to process the bizarre incident she had witnessed that night.

Although she had seen far worse when Ian got betrayed and when her parents defended the country, she was a bystander during those situations and had people protecting her.

However, she was directly involved in the incident that night and could have died at the hands of Daphne if Kurt did not show up in time.

The ordeal was so terrifying that the mere thought of it caused her to shiver uncontrollably.

"Are you cold?"

Kurt pulled her closer into his embrace when he felt her shivering.

She must be scared out of her wits... Well, it's understandable. After all, she has been cared for like a princess her entire life, so it's only natural for her to be traumatized after experiencing something so dangerous. The fact that she's able to maintain her composure until my arrival is an impressive enough feat as is. Honestly, she's not the only one who's afraid. God knows how scared I was when I found out what happened back then...

It was the first time he cast aside his inhibitions and held her so tightly in his arms.

Probably because the warmth of his body and the sound of his heart beating strongly in his chest calmed her nerves, Vivian eventually felt at ease enough to speak again.

"Kurt, do you really know that woman? I... I only followed Prince Jason to his place because he looks just like Calvin..."

Her dulcet voice cracked as she started sobbing again at the mention of Calvin.

Calvin? She knows my brother? How come I've never heard about it? Could it be that...

Fighting back the countless thoughts racing through his mind, Kurt asked, "Who's Calvin?"

"Calvin Woods. I call him Brother Cal, though. Daddy put him in charge of my safety when I was young, and he was really nice to me. He'd tuck me in and take me out for walks... Everything was going great until some bad guys caused his demise..."

Vivian buried her face in Kurt's chest and began wailing as she recalled the moment of Calvin's death, which haunted her like a nightmarish curse.

Kurt, on the other hand, was completely frozen in shock after hearing what she said about Calvin.

So, my brother really was working for the Hayeses too?

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Chapter 1610

Chapter 1610 Public Enemy

When the king of the tribe sentenced Kurt's aunt to death back then, his grandparents hired someone to investigate what had happened in their state of panic. It was then that they found out that she had sent her two kids away overnight. Because of that, the high priest accused the two kids of bringing bad luck to the tribe.

Although Kurt's grandparents really wanted to save her, there was nothing much they could do within the strictly hierarchical tribe. As such, they decided to try and rescue her children instead. They figured it would at least provide his aunt with some form of consolation while she awaited her execution.

However, they could not seem to find them no matter where they looked.

The tribe tortured his aunt for years while searching for her kids, but they were unable to locate them. Eventually, the wicked king had the worst idea possible—to have his mother bear the punishment of her sister's crime. He forced himself on her, and that was how Kurt came to be.

As if that was not bad enough, the high priest accused him of bringing bad luck to the tribe when he turned ten. He suffered the same fate as his cousins. Had Karl not arrived in time, he would have died there.

In the dark, Kurt wore a scornful smile on his face and said, "That's not true. He only has that face because that woman used some kind of drug,"

"Drug?"

Upon hearing that, Vivian was so shocked that she stopped crying instantly and stared wide-eyed at him.

What? I didn't know it was possible to alter a person's appearance through the use of drugs!

The young man nodded. "She consumed a specially concocted formula when she was pregnant. According to modern-day science, it's a type of drug that alters genes."

"Seriously? Something this powerful actually exists?" she exclaimed in surprise.

A person's appearance depends entirely on their parents' genes, but Kurt said that woman was able to make Prince Jason look exactly like Brother Cal by altering his genes with drugs... This is unbelievable... Even with how advanced technology is these days, I don't think a drug like this has been invented yet!

"Yeah, so you need to be more careful next time. Don't go off on your own," Kurt exhorted, frowning.

Naturally, he would not tell her that the woman from earlier was actually a former high priest in Elysium and that the drug she used was no legitimate stuff either. Due to Elysium's mysterious and isolated nature, there were many nasty things in the tribe that the world did not know of.

The two of them returned to the villa that night.

After sending her to her bedroom, Kurt was about to leave when she pleaded, "Kurt, could you leave the door open? I'm still a little scared... A-At least wait till I'm asleep before closing it?"

Vivian was so embarrassed that her face was burning bright red when she said that, and she could not even bring herself to look at him.

Of course, Kurt was not about to say no to her request, especially when she was asking him so earnestly.

His ears, too, turned scarlet as he lowered his head to look at her. Watching her averting her eyes from him, he almost told her to go to sleep and that he would watch over her in the room, but his shyness caused him to swallow those words.

In the end, he stood by the door until Vivian fell asleep.

It was not until he heard the sounds of her steady breathing that he quietly entered the room.

Moonlight pouring in through the window illuminated the room as he sat down in a chair and watched her while she slept peacefully.

The sun was high up in the sky by the time Vivian woke up the next day, but Kurt was nowhere in sight.

Where's Kurt?

As she glanced about the room and noticed the chair that had been returned to its original position, she jumped off the bed with a start.

"Kurt? Kurt?"

"Ah, you're awake?"

Kurt's voice, which had yet to deepen fully, sounded particularly pleasant to the ears.

Feeling relieved, Vivian bolted downstairs in her pajamas and ran toward the young man who was busy making breakfast in the dining room.

"I thought you left."

"Nope. From now on, I'll drop you off at school before I head over to the university," Kurt replied as he turned toward her.

However, the sight of her milky white skin and curvaceous figure beneath her thin pajamas caused him to retract his gaze immediately.

A slight blush formed on his face as he lowered his head, but Vivian did not notice it as she was overjoyed after hearing him offer to send her to school every day.

"Really? That's great! Here, these are the keys to my car!" she exclaimed excitedly while handing him the car keys, only to pout in disappointment when she remembered that he

could not drive. "Oh, wait... You can't drive since you're not eighteen yet... Then, I'll have my driver pick us up instead!"

Kurt did not say anything in response, but he had a smile on his lips the entire time.

The duo headed out half an hour later, and Vivian stood by the gate until the car disappeared from her sight before skipping into the campus.

"Vivi, you're here."

"Hey, Sonia!" Vivian chirped, her mood brightening further when she saw her best friend.

Yet, Sonia's expression turned solemn after she greeted Vivian.